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# Windfall tax grab by Tories

Chris Godsmark and Anthony Bevins

The privatised utilities were last ight mounting a fierce lobbying campaign against Kenneth Clarke's backdoor 'windfall tax", which one leading accountancy expert estimated could cost them more than £5bn.

Directors of several privatised electricity and water businesses dubbed the Chancellor of the Exchequer's tax plans for "longlife assets" a windfall tax "by any other name". They compared the changes to Labour's plan to raise billions of pounds from a has always repudiated any sug-. Whe had gestion that he has considered ., ii 41 www a windfall tax on the utilities,

But the Budget changes in effect slash the amount of inprofessional vestment spending big firms The make FAC can set against their tax bills. The Treasury will raise £45m among the fee from the change next year wising to £675m in 1999-2000.

The experts said the privatised utilities, which invest billions each year in electricity wires and-

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gas and water pipes, would be left bearing most of the burden. As the implications of the measure sank in yesterday, top accountancy firms were already advising the utilities to go on the attack in an attempt to change. the Chancellor's mind before the Budget legislation takes

One shocked board member of a privatised utility said: "We. just can't see any justification for English local authority finance,

this. The thinking behind this is which Labour said would add an entirely political." But yester-average 6 per cent to council tax day's political battle centred on the tax burden, with Mr Clarke denouncing Labour attacks as comic and irrelevant.

While politicians and analysts continued the painstaking process of picking over the bare bones of Treasury tables, the Chancellor used a post-Budget press conference to insist that there had been no increase in the tax burden.

Mr Clarke said: "I really do think it is a preposterous irrelevance to judge the economic record of the Government by... these kinds of comparisons, in careful to choose 1991-92 as his base year -putting the Conservative record in a flattering light and he took even greater care to exclude indirect taxes like VAT on domestic fuel and

The overall national tax bur Unlike Labour's plans for a den in 1991-92 - as measured one off tax, the measures will hit by the basic guide, Non-North companies year after year. Sea taxes and National Insurance contributions as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product - was 36.5 per cent, compared with 36.25 per cent in the forthcoming financial year, 1997-98.

However, the tax burden in the April 1992 election year, 1992-93, was 34.5 per cent. It has risen steadily since 1993-94 and. according to the Treasury Red Book, it is planned to increase to 38 per cent by 2001-02.

After a bewilderingly com-plex Commons statement on

bills, the shadow Chancellor, Gordon Brown, last night opened up the second day of the Budget debate with tax as his main target.

Mr Brown tore into the Govment's record, and mocked Mr Clarke's morning statement, saying: "It is not a preposterous irrelevance if the people of Britain were told they were going to have lax cuts year on year and were then let down."

Citing the figures provided in the Red Book, Mr Brown said that while Mr Clarke had cut taxes for 1997-98 by £735m in particular years, of the tax "Thesday's Budget, tax increas-burden." Nevertheless, he was es of £1,085m were already in the pipeline from previous Bud-Both the Chancellor and William Waidegrave, Chief Sec-

retary to the Treasury, could be seen referring to the Red Book tables quoted by Mr Brown -and they both came back with the same reply. Mr Clarke said: "The tax burden is the same, overall, as it was before the last election; it is no higher." Mr Clarke told the Treasury

press conference that what people were really interested in was overall prosperity. The Conservatives had shown that they could run a market economy more profitably than their Labour opponents.



Silent suffering: The face of Medieval horror in a Moldovan nursery, as the West begins to rescue forgotten children. English footballers who played in the former Soviet republic this week pledged financial support for the Pages 10,11,20 disabled children, many of whom are starving to death this winter (Page 3) Photograph: European Children's Trust

#### Five die from poisoned food

Susan Emmett

Five people have now died in the Scottish town of Wishaw and surrounding areas, following an outbreak of food poisoning, health officials said last night. The latest victim, a 71-year-

old woman died at Law Hospital, Carluke. The outbreak also claimed the lives of Alexander Gardiner, 69, and a woman aged 79 who died in Monklands General Hospital, Airdrie. Her identity had not been released last night.

Another unnamed woman is believed to have died on the Forth Valley. The first casualty was a church elder in Wishaw. Harry Shaw, 80, was one of a party of pensioners tak-en ill after a steak pie meal pro-vided by a local butcher's shop in the town 10 days ago.

The number of people reporting symptoms yesterday rose to 107 - including 18 children, and 62 of these had been confirmed as having the E-coli 0157 infection. Nine of the suspected cases came from Forth Valley, but by far the worst spread of the outbreak is in neighbouring Lanarkshire.

Among those in hospital were a seven-year-old girl and three-year-old boy receiving kidney dialysis treatment in Yorkhill Hospital, Glasgow.

en had not attended the church lunch, investigators are concentrating on cooked meat from a local butcher. But other sources have not been ruled out.

"We certainly hope the number of cases will go down but I think it is going to get worse be-fore it gets better," warned Dr Syed Ahmed, Consultant in Public Health Medicine for Lanarkshire Health Board.

The E coli bacteria occurs naturally in the human gut and most strands are harmless. But E coli 0157 is dangerous especially to the elderly and is often associated with burgers and

Forte comeback Sie Rocco Forte is returning to the hotel industry with plans to build a £12m, five star hotel in Cardiff Bay, just over a year after Granada successfully took over his family's company,

SPECIAL Boxing clever

Pill for dyslexia Researcher claimed that dyslex-

ia and a disorder which causes a form of childhood clumsiness could be treated by taking a pill containing three fatty acids. Five per cent of children are

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The Minister for Sport, Iam Sproat, yesterday threw his weight behind a return to boxing in schools as a good way of teaching young people disci-

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### buy back into.

#### Andrew Gumbel

Despite armies of doctors fighting round the clock to save her life as she lies critically ill in a Calcutta hospital, Mother Teresa has lost all interest in medical treatment and longs only for one thing to die in peace. The 86year-old missionary worker, suffering severe chest pains and an rregular heartbeat, has been under intense medical supervision

for the past five days, but ac-cording to her friends and closest associates, she would much rather the doctors left her alone. Let me die like the poor. people I help," she has implored

Mother Teresa is famous among her followers for resisting medical treatment, whether it is for heart failure or just a routine trip to the dentist. But since her last hospital stay three months ago, when her heart actually stopped beating briefly, she has lost interest in regaining even the strength necessary to con-

tinue her missionary work. "When I saw her in September, she pointed at the ceiling and said: 'I'm going home to God,'" said Jim Ibwey, a former. seminarian with her order who has known her for the past 11 years. "She talked very openly about not wanting to live any longer. She's helped so many people to die that she can accept mortality much better than

her doctors. According to Mr Towey, who now beads a foundation in Florida devoted to the dignity of the old and dying but maintains daily telephone contact with Calcutta, the sisters of Mother 26 Teresa's Missionaries of Chari- Mother Teresa: suffering chest pains and irregular heart beat Photograph: Glynn Griffiths

#### **Andrew Gumbel** reports on a missionary's plea

Mother Teresa pleads with

her friends: Just let me die

ty have had to resort to trickery to persuade their ailing founder into accepting medical care. In Septembershe was so convinced she was about to die that she received the last rites, and the fact a doctor any more?" that the doctors subsequently revived her left her feeling dis-mayed and a little embarrassed. "She didn't want to go into

hospital then and she doesn't want to be in hospital now." Mr Towey said. That makes it all much harder on the people around her than it is on her. It's not as though she has a terminal disease that they can ease sonal friendship, seems to corher through. She just has a weak heart, and the sisters don't know what to do. At what point should they decide not to call

The picture painted by Mr Towey of a deeply holy woman, modest to the last, contrasts strongly with the more sceptical vision presented by such critics as Christopher Hitchens, who wrote a scathing biography of Mother Teresa last year. However, Mr Towey's version, based on a long-standing perrespond more closely with the observations of the Nobel peace laureate's doctors and other outside observers who have

seen her in the past few days. Mother Teresa has suffered from an arbythmic heart and other cardiac problems for years, and has come close to dying three times in the last sev-1991 and 1993 she underwent

en years. In 1989 she was fitted with a pacemaker, while in angioplasty - the insertion of a surgical balloon to clear a pas-



sage in the blocked arteries of her heart.

On each of those occasions she quickly resumed her punishing work schedule, but this time around it has been differ ent. According to Mr Towey, she has been forced to slow down

ever since she fell during a trip to Ireland in June. The fall messed up her circulation and she hasn't been the same," he said. Shortly after her discharge from hospital in September, she fell again and cut herself badly above an eye. She has been mostly bed-ridden ever since, getting up only on good days to do a few hours' ad-

nistrative work for her order. In the past few days, she has been further diagnosed with breathing problems. On Tuesday she was transferred from the ramshacide Woodlands Nursing Home to the state-of-the-art B.M. Birla Heart Research Centre for clinical tests, but she has grown so weak since that doctors are still waiting to decide whether to proceed.

"The doctors are divided on whether she could survive any treatment, which at this point would take the form of either another angioplasty or else electric shock treatment," Mr

Towey said. "Mother herself is not all that concerned about it, though. After all, she's got one foot in



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### Gummeronola, scourge of the unorthodox

In the heyday of the Inquisition (by no means solely a Spanish affair) my forebears would of-ten find themselves in some draughty ecclesiastical court, undergoing "theological examination".

Acting at the behest of the Cardinal-Archbishop of Salamanca or some other church nob, the prosecution would be led by an ambitious monk able and willing to deploy his talents in the service of political as well as religious objectives.

John Selwyn Gummer, Secretary of State for the Environment.

ronment, would make a wonderful inquisitor. Pale, fervent, efficient, Jesuitical and when necessary - mendacious, he needs only the accoutrements (a tonsure, a rosary, a large wooden cross and access to a fire-proof town square) to be transformed into



John Selwyn Gummer would make a wonderful inquisitor. Pale, Jesuitical and – when necessary mendacious

Even in a light grey suit, however, the appearance of Gummer in the House yester- awful moment that he meant day boded no good for someone. In the wake of the budget's limited give-aways to the Government's loyal citizens, there was property to be sequestered from the infidels and unbelievanonovitch ers. And no one could be less faithful to the Truth and believe less in the Cause than local govemment - Labour or Libdem virtually to a person.

Casting back his cowl, Gummeronola began softly. In forming his proposals for local government's finances he had considered the pressures ... listened carefully ... taken account... weighed carefully" and was sympathetic - of course

Gummeronola scourge of the total there is no room for something important was being unorthodox. Thank said at the end of which some-God", sighed some very stupid one would suffer, but they observers, "we thought for an

> Of course it didn't mean cuts. Gummeronola insisted. The TSS next year would be comparable to the TSS this year. The SSA's would be largely unchanged, except in those areas where they would be altered completely. Notional taxes would again be identified for the CTSS. So if the squillions earmarked by Pope John and the College of Cardinals for the education of the laity were somehow to get lost, we would all know who to blame, now

MPs on all sides of the House like laymen on an ecclesiashe was. But "it would be absurd to imagine that within this large comprehension. They realised

wouldn't we?

couldn't tell what or why, even

if they had a fair idea who.
It got no better. "Rural areas are most interested in the sparsity factor. Closely packed urban areas are interested in the density factor". Members laughed nervously, wondering whether these two things were not in fact exactly the same measurement, except yielding different results for different

This irritated Mr Gummer. "According to independent experts the system may be the most sophisticated anywhere in the world", he snapped. As are the penalties for the impenitent. First, as we all

know, miscreants may be capped. What is not so well-

damped. A scheme would "pro-vide for a second year of damping, threatened the Secretary of State.

I wondered, would offending councils be capped first and then damped (roughly the order of things at an auto-da-fe)? Or damped, revived and then

Labour and Liberal Democ-

rat MPs were getting restive. They still could not get rid of the notion that, when this was all boiled down, schools would still be falling down and classes would be too big. So they muttered away. They either don't like it, or they don't un-derstand it", Gummeronola accused. And for once he was understating the case. They neither liked it nor understood it and I suspect that, for once, they represented the nation

### significant shorts

### Allitt children

The parents of children killed or injured by nurse Beverley Allitt have accepted a compensation package believed to total £500,000, her former employers. Lincolnshire Health Authority, announced

yesterday. The authority admitted that all the parents involved had suffered post-traumatic stress disorder and had become ill as a result. Allitt, who was 24 at the time. murdered four children and attacked a further nine while she worked as a nurse on Ward 4 at Grantham and Kesteven General Hospital in the spring of 1991. In May 1993 she was given 13 life

#### Custody for **McAliskey**

The eldest daughter of former nationalist MP Bernadette McAliskey was remanded in custody for a week yesterday when she appeared in court on an extradition warrant following the IRA bombing of a British Army base in Osnabrück,

Germany, in June. Roisin McAliskey, 25, was arrested at her parents' home in County Tyrone last authorities, who will be represented at the next hearing on 4 December, want to question Ms McAliskey on charges of attempted murder and possession of explosives. They allege that Ms McAliskey was part of a five-member IRA cell which planned and carried out the attack. Miss McAliskey, through her solicitor, denied

#### Aspinall wins tiger battle

Millionaire businessman and zoo-keeper John Aspinall yesterday won a High Court battle against Canterbury City Council for the legal right to let his keepers enter the enclosures of fully grown, freely roaming tigers at his zoo at Howletts, near

Canterbury, Kent. The council's ban had followed the death of a 32-year-old keeper, Trevor Smith, in November 1994 after he was bitten in the eack of the neck by Balkash a 500lb Siberian tiger, while cleaning its enclosure. He was the third of Mr Aspinall's keepers to be killed by tigers.

#### Gardai find IRA cache

A cache of IRA bomb-making equipment, including Semtex explosive, detonators, cortex fuse wire, timing units and several walkie-talkie radios, was discovered by gardai in woodland a mile from the village of Castlebellingham in County Louth, near the Northern Ireland border yesterday. It was the third such find there in recent

weeks. Alan Murdoch

#### Compensation The DSS staff for parents of who relocated - and resigned

More than 100 of the 2.100 Department of Social Security staff who were relocated to Leeds at "considerable cost to the taxpayer promptly resigned and took early retirement. according to a report published yesterday the all-party Commons Public

Accounts Committee. The committee was reporting on the construction of Quarry House, the new DSS headquarters in Leculs. The building attracted the criticism of the National Audit Office earlier this year because of its lavish facilities for staff, including a swimming pool and bar. The move to Leeds had been justified because of long-term savings. Christian Wolmar ■ Construction of Quarry House; House of Commons paper number 69: £8.90

#### Child abuser dies in jail

Ralph Morris, the specialchool owner who was serving 12 years in jail for abusing emotionally disturbed boys has been found dead in his cell at Little Hey Prison. Cambridgeshire. There were no suspicious circumstances. Between 1984 and 1989 Morris, 56, was said to have sexually abused 43 boys and physically abused a further 50 at Castle Hill School in Shropshire.

#### From Russia with love

The love letters from Boris Pasternak to his mistress Olga Ivinskaia, who inspired him to write his epic novel, Dr Zhivago, failed to sell at a sparsely attended auction of his poems and manuscripts at Christie's, London, yesterday. The collection, which was expected to fetch at least £500,000, did not reach its reserve price.

#### Final goodbye for Bentine



Michael Bentine CBE, actor, broadcaster, and one of the founders of the Goon Show, died yesterday at the Royal Marsden Hospital in London after a lengthy battle against

prostate cancer. Mr Bentine, 74, who was born in Watford to Peruvian parents, had refused chemotherapy after seeing his mother and two of his five children die from cancer after enduring treatment.

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### Safety rethink for Chunnel

Ch<del>ristia</del>n Wolmar and Mary Dejevsky

The entire safety regulations covering lorry and car services through the Channel tunnel will have to be revised, it emerged yesterday as details of

last week's fire were released. Although Eurotunnel, which operates the rail services, said hopes to resume passenger trains next week, the instructions to driver not to stop if there is a fire will have to be changed. During last week's blaze, which occurred just as the train was entering the 50 kilo-metre tunnel, the advice to continue through the tunnel exacerbated the amount of damage and put the lives of the 31

crew and passengers at risk. In the first implicit admission that the fire had raised serious questions about safety, the lor-

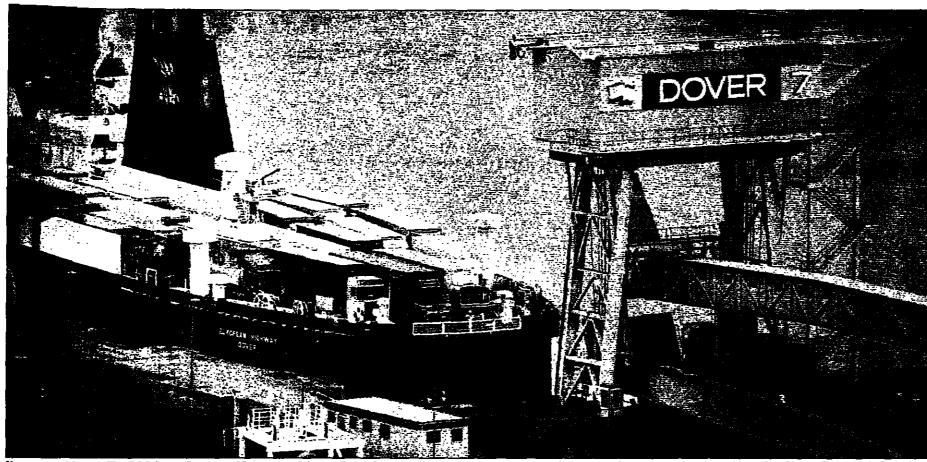
ry service using the controversial open-backed wagons has been suspended indefinitely pending a review of procedures and equipment.
A small fire yesterday caused

by welders working on the damaged train still in the tunnel was quickly put out, but will add to fears that it is unsafe to run passenger trains while work is being carried out.

The safety systems contain an inherent contradiction that will have to be remedied. Patrick Ponsolle, co-chairman of Eurotunnel, said the driver of the shuttle had been alerted both by a fire alarm and by a separate alarm on the load. Procedure in the first case would be to make for the exit where emergency services would be waiting; procedure in the second would be to stop the train, lest the load, shuttle or track be damaged.

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### Channel traffic down to a trickle as blockade threatens festive 'famine'



Home sweet home: The P&O ferry, European Highway, arriving at Dover from Zeebrugge yesterday, carrying 120 lorries that had been trapped in the blockade Photograph: Brian Harris

### MALCOLM **GLUCK ANNOUNCES** HE'S OFF THE BOTTLE.

(HE'S TRYING THEWNE BOX INSTEAD.)



in tomorrow's programme Malcolm Gluck revisits the much maligned wine box and in Radio Times every week you'll find his wine recommendations from the series Gluck, Gluck, Gluck.

Radiolimes IT'S NOT WHAT YOU EXPECT.

### Stores begin airlift to beat food shortages

lan Burreli and Mary Dejevsky

British supermarkets have begun airlifting supplies of fresh produce from Spain to beat the worsening blockade by French lorry-drivers.

Yesterday, the ports of Dover and Ramsgate were closed to lorries as a huge backlog of Europe-bound freight traffic built up in Kent.

Police redirected lorries to a holding area, known as "the Truck Stop", off the M20, near Ashford. Last night, it contained up to 800 lorries, with drivers facing a wait of at least 12

hours for a sailing.
Sir George Young, Secretary of State for Transport, said he had sent a telegram to his French opposite number, demanding fresh initiatives to free the British drivers trapped on the other side of the Channel and fairly compensate their

employers. Trade sources said only 20 per cent of supplies of fresh fruit and vegetables were getting through, leaving more than 150,000 tons of fresh fruit and vegetables rotting in the blockade or remaining with suppliers. Normally 1,200 lorries would

be crossing from France each day with around 16 tonnes of fresh produce each.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food said that 2 million tonnes of fruit and vegetables were imported from Europe each year, with the bulk of the importing being

done in the winter months. John Morris, executive in Food and Drink at the British Retail Consortium, said that the blockade had so far caused a 1 per cent fall in deliveries of fresh fruit and vegetables, the vast majority of which are grown in this country and are not affected by the dispute.

However, Christmas supplies of satsumas and clementines from Spain were now in danger. We can foresce a problem because all the lorries are in the wrong place," he said.

In order to get round the chaos on the roads, Tesco began shipping supplies of cucumbers, peppers, tomatoes and iceberg lettuces from Spain to

Two Sainsbury cargo planes arrived from Valencia and Alicante yesterday at RAF Manston, in Kent, and East Midlands airport, carrying supplies of oranges, courgettes and

Other goods being transported through France were redirected to ports in Belgium and Holland.

not expect any shortages of root vegetables, which are still being lifted in England, and large supplies of apples and potatoes were kept in cold stor-

Clive Reddall editor of The Grocer, said that many stores were reluctant to fly in goods because they would have to pass the extra cost. He said that customers could begin to notice shortages in the supply of some fresh fruit and vegetables within a couple of days.

"If the blockade goes beyond the weekend people will really start to get worried," he said. Mr Beddall added that only 20 per cent of normal levels of supplies of fresh fruit and veg-etables from France and Spain was being delivered. The rest

was held up in the blockade. He said that other produce, including canned goods, was kept in plentiful supply and there would be no Christmas

Sir George Young spoke of his determination to compensate British firms hit by the blockade after a meeting with the Freight Transport Associa-tion and the Road Haulage Association. He said: "I will be taking a personal interest in this. The British embassy and my deportment will be available to aswhich I take very seriously "The situation is deeply disturbing. I'm particularly concerned about the health of a number of our transport companies, who are wholly innocent parties in an industrial dispute in France.

Meanwhile French union leaders have pledged to keep the blockade up for "at least a week" until their demands are met by management.
In Paris last night, unions and

employers were closer to a settlement with agreements on early retirement and working Under strong pressure from

the French government, the transport ministry mediator. Robert Cros, secured union agreement on early retirement and working hours. But the unions said they were instructing the drivers to keep the blockade in place until they were satisfied on all outstand-

ing points, including pay.

By yesterday, several car plants were idle, building sites were grinding to a halt and farmers were threatening action because they could not get perishable goods to markets.

Garages across much of south and central France were dry, and and oil depots around Paris were blockaded for the

### Dover becomes refugee camp

The Kent port of Dover and the M20 motorway at nearby Ashford yesterday turned into two giant refugee camps for around 1,000 international drivers and their lorries.

The stalemate in the talks in Paris to end the road blockade in France influenced the decision by the authorities in Kent to half all further freight movement from English ports into

Drivers who had spent 12 hours – from 8pm on Tuesday night to 8am yesterday morning - getting to Dover learned their plans to cross to France would be on indefinite hold. As roads and freight car parks around Dover filled up, Kent police took the decision to halt all HGV lorries at junction 10 of

directed to an emergency car park near Ashford international rail station, also not functioning normally as Channel tunnel operators Eurotunnel continued to argue with safety authorities that services should be allowed to resume following

last week's fire. All day yesterday Channel Tunnel Radio on 107.6FM was warning drivers of the potential delays and the diversions to Ashford. The decision of one DJ to play Supertramps' "Take the Long Way Home" would not have gone down well with some drivers facing severe delays.

There was also chaos at the port of Ramsgate with up to five miles of lorry tailbacks. At Ashford lorries drivers from France, Greece, Germany,

the M20 near Ashford, 20 miles Turkey, Spain, Hungary and The French drivers are taking from Dover, Lorries were then elsewhere, as well as Britain were told they would have to wait until the dispute in France ended, the blockade on French roads lifted and the road situation around Dover had eased. In Dover freight car parks

and the port's adjoining major roads were filled. At the terminal's Rendezvous Truck Stop restaurant, the Salvation Army, dispensing hot tea and sympathy, would not have looked out Martin Stiller, a lorry driver

from Bruges in Belgium, said he arrived at Dover at Sam yesterday after a 12-hour wait only few hours north of the port. Last week, to avoid the blockade, he had taken a ferry from Zeebrugge to the north of England, taking 16 hours. "Now I'm caught up trying to get back.

the piss. It's their problem, why involve us?"

Willie Patterson from Dumfries, and his lorry cargo of "carpets, computers, two road sweepers and some ICI plastic wrapping" had managed to get to Calais, but was then brought back. "Sea France shipped three ferries full of HGVs back to Dover on Tuesday. In France it was hellish. All the bureaux de changes were closed. I'm a driver, but I feel all I've been for a week is babysitting this bloody

The ferry companies at Dover yesterday were trying to keep the stranded drivers informed of any development at the Paris talks. The rumours circulating last night ranged from hopes of a deal by midnight to nothing till next week.

حكدًا من الأصل

England's football squad are among the West Europeans waking up to the nightmare of Moldova's lost and starving children

# Helpless, hungry .. with winter on the

Clare Garner

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Child abu

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Milley Let

One hundred and fifty-four helpless faces - bony and blue with cold - stare out from behind cot bars. Their emaciated bodies are laid out on soiled mattresses, dirty with encrust-ed faeces and ridden with weep-

ing sores.
The disabled girls are categorised into debilitated, imbecile or idiot - and subsequently starved to death.

But these scenes of depriva-tion at the orphanage of Casa de Copii - the House of Children - in Hincesti, a town in the former Soviet Republic of Moldova, are not unique. An estimated 40,000 children – that is 10 per cent of the child population in Moldava – are abandoned to state-run institutions. Across the former Soviet Union, there are believed to be many similar institutions.

Western Europe is just waking up to the fact that the deprivation of an orphanage upbringing does not end at Romania's borders. The plight of the children at Casa de Copii was first brought to the atten-

only hotel with hot water. The heating system at the orphan-

age hasn't worked since 1990. When the team-members ressembled to train for the recent Poland match, they unanimously agreed to pledge their personal support. They announced yesterday

that they were donating £10,000 to the European Children's Trust (ECT), a charity set up last year to address the situation. The sum has been matched by the Football Association.

Glenn Hoddle, the England captain and a father of three, said yesterday: "As footballers, sometimes we are cocooned in our own little world and sometimes it is nice to branch out from that little world and help those less fortunate.

"There's always another problem or another country, but if you can make these children's lives better by 1 per

cent, it's worthwhile.

"We discussed it as a team they could have said 'We get
endless requests', but this seemed to us to be an exceptional situation."



was different, because we were

there, so close to it."
The rambling institution of cially marginalised from the David Davies, FA director of wider population. The girls'

only poorly controlled with the few drugs available.

Last winter, 31 of the orphans Casa de Copii is situated on the at Casa de Copii died as temperatures plunged to -20 deperatures plunged to -20 degrees centigrade. This year, the projected figure is fewer than 11

tion of the international community when the England
munity when the England
football team visited the comtry in September, staying in the

public affairs said: "I'm glad we physical disabilities range from provided that the ECT in
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makes, they are likely to die within three months.

Catherine Stevens, head of fundraising at the ECT, the only British charity working in Moldova, has visited the or-

are dying of cold and hunger. The charity's immediate plan is to spend £40,000 on adequate heating, medicines and supplementary food. £25 buys blankets

terrible to say hygiene is third, but they're not dying of dirt, they £10,000 raised, the ECT will be work of its sister charity, the Roable to help another institution this winter.

Formerly part of the Soviet empire, Moldova, area 13,010 square miles. is now an independent but extremely poor republic to the northwest of Romania. It has a population of four million whose average wage is

The official language is Moldovan,

spoken by 64.5 per cent of the pop-

ulation. Ethnic minorities include

Ukrainian (13.8 per cent), Russian

Bulgarian (2 per cent), Jewish (1.5

and unknown. The capital, Kishinev, has an estimated population of

per cent) and 1.6 per cent others

667,100. There are three other

towns with populations in the hun-

ed to the north-east and south by

Romania.

The Ukraine. To the west it borders

The largest religious denomination

is the Eastern Orthodox Church. The

Gagauz, despite their Turkish origins,

are also adherents of Orthodox Chris-

On 27 August 1991, after the col-

Landlocked, the republic is bound-

(13 per cent), Gagauz (3.5 per cent)

around US\$30 a month.

In the long term, the charity hopes to train Moldovan social workers so that future generations of children will never

Poor relation of the former Soviet Empire UKRAINE

> laose of the Russian coup, the Moldovan parliament and the Grand National Assembly proclaimed Moldova's independence from the USSR. Since then, the republic's gross domestic product has fallen by 60%, and it ranks as the 54th poorest country in the world.

> > manian Orphanage Trust. After

spending £5m on improving

the lives of the children within

orphanages, the trust has

worked closely with the Ro-

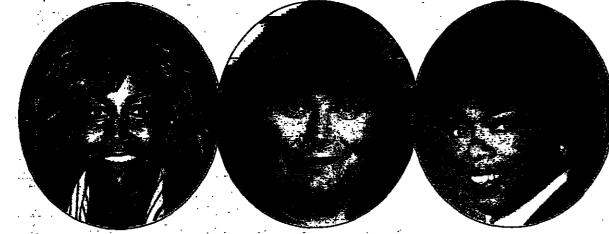
manian authorities to reform

and develop a structure that is based on families rather than

100 miles

ROMANIA /

### New women are happy, independent, imperfect



Role models: Today's woman admires (from left) Tina Turner, Dawn French, Oprah Winfrey

'Real Women' give up on Superwoman and hate hectoring adverts

#### Glenda Cooper

Three-quarters of women have given up trying to be an Eighties Superwoman and say they ies Superwoman are a lot happier since they stopped striving for perfection. And having a man in their life is no longer very important for two-thirds of women, with only one in five seeing marriage as a goal to be achieved.

Most women say they are not

affected by rake-thin models pushed forward by advertisers and the media. Two-thirds of comen do not feel pressurised into looking like the models in magazines and fewer dream of losing lots of weight than dream of having enough time to do everything they want or travel-

who are interesting and attrac-tive, rather than 18-year-olds. And being able to afford to have someone else to do the chores rated higher than being able to turn the clock back.

Women dislike the way they are pigeonholed by advertisers with more than one in three feeling that "most adverts treat women as idiots" and nearly as many think "most ads are basically sexist". Nine out of ten would prefer adverts to show "real women" rather than beautiful actresses and models, and their favourite advertisements are ones that are entertaining and make then laugh.

Their top three television adverts were for Diet Coke werything they want or traveling frequently.

They also fail to pine for lost

Jane Horrocks and Prunella

Faces that fit ... and don't fit

tive woman with a personality. The most disliked adswere the old Fairy campaign with Nanette Newman, Daz's "doorstep challenge" with Dan-ny Baker and Tampax [a roller-

skating glamour girl]. Role models varied from Tina Turner and Oprah Winfrey to Dawn French and Joanna Lumley. At the bottom of the list came Pamela Anderson, Paula Yates and Margaret

According to the NOP survey, which questioned women between 15 and 45, the best things about being a woman today are being able to have both a career and a family; the opportunity to pursue a career if they want to; and the ability to be financially independent from men. The number of women youth, preferring advertise- Scales and Oxo with Lynda with a mortgage in their own ments showing women over 30 Bellingham - an older, attrac-

women's self esteem, with just 15 per cent of women agreeing that a woman is only truly fulfilled when she has had children. Women who have children still tend to enjoy a traditional role, with 63 per cent saying that in a family with young children they would rather be the one who stays at home. At the same time less than half would feel

and 1994 and more than a

Nearly nine out of 10 women

said they would be confident in-vesting money on their own, 44 per cent would feel confident

buying a personal computer and 35 per cent a car. They also

said that they would enjoy shop-ping for these items much more

than shopping for clothes, fur-

The role of motherhood is no

longer seen as crucial to

niture or home decorations.

quarter now hold shares.

"The 1990s seem to be a time of great opportunity for women," said Nigel Sharrocks, managing director of Grey. "If they felt under pressure 10 years ago to be the perfect mother, wife and career woman, today they are enjoying the choices they face without the constant need to live up to other people's expectations.

that being a wife and mother was enough for them.

"A new optimistic woman with a strong sense of her own independence and individuality has taken over."

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IN: Diet Cole: ste

The Diet Coke ad Joanna Lumley Dawn French Tina Turner The Oxo ads **Oprah Winfrey** 

What women like...

Pamela Anderson Danny Baker and the Daz challenge Paula Yates Nanette Newman on Fairy liquid Margaret Thatcher

What women don't like...



QUT:Daz man

### The blue-eyed blondes who don't belong

Anthony Bevins Political Editor

One of Labour's Afro-Caribbean MPs, Diane Abbott, was accused of racism last night after she criticised a local hospital for taking on "blonde, blue-eyed", Finnish nurses.

Writing in her local newspaper, the ney North and Stoke Newington. women are charming.

"But they are basically here to improve their English and are unlikely to give the British health service a lifetime's commitment."

She said she was surprised that Homerton Hospital, Hackney, had chosen to employ "blonde, blue-eyed girls from Finland, instead of nurses from the Caribbean who know the Hackney Gazette, the MP for Hack- language and understand British culture and institutions ... And are said: "I am sure that these young Finnish girls, who may never have

Miss Abbott said it was wrong for Homerton to be importing labour from Finland when Hackney had the second-highest level of unemployment in the country. "My mother was a nurse and I know many nurses. Black nurses are leaving the profession all the time because of racism and lack of career development.

"For years many black nurses met a black person before, let alone have found themselves confined to

touched one, best suited to nurse in multicultural Hackney?" the night shift and unglamorous specialisms like mental health and geriatric nursing.

"And in the re-organisations of recent years black nurses have been the nubbish from a Member of Parliafirst to lose their jobs, particularly black nurses in management.
"But above all nurses of all colours

are leaving the profession in droves because of all the pressure, the cut backs and general demoralisation.

"The management of Homerton Hospital NHS Trust should be speak-

Europe for cheap labour."

The Tory MP Ian Bruce last night said: "I have never heard such racist ment in recent years. It shows complete ignorance. She is using racial stereotypes which are wholly inappropriate. Most Finnish girls are dark-haired, not blonde with blue eyes. She must be thinking of Swedes

A Royal College of Nursing arrive next year. They would be

spokesman said Miss Abbott had "se-riously overreacted", adding: "There is a strong feeling that this is setting nurse against nurse when everyone is only trying to do a job of work. It gives the impression that there is this

pool of black nurses in the Hackney area which is not true." A senior nurse at Homerton Hospital, Eileen Farragher, said said 30 nurses from Finland had been taken on, and another 20 were due to

joined by about 8 to 10 block and white nurses from South Africa.

Miss Abbott later insisted her remarks were not racist. She had nothing against Finns, but thought Homerton should recruit nurses in cally. "The issue is not one of colour. the issue is that people should not be recruited from overseas in an area of mass unemployment. My argument is not that they shouldn't employ white nurses. My argument is that they should employ local people."

### Major says charities meddling in politics

Polly Ghazi

Several leading charities, in-cluding Save the Children Fund and Oxfam, have been questioned by the Charity Commissioners after John Major accused them by letter of meddling in politics.

The Prime Minister's highly unusual rebuke was aimed at the Real World coalition of aid, environmental and social justice groups set up in March to campaign to campaign for a higher profile for these issues at the next election.

Real World representatives wrote to each party leader asking for support for their agenda, which includes higher spending on rebuilding communities and overseas aid, a Bill of Rights and greener economic, energy and transport policies.

Mr Major's response, addressed to Carolyn Miller, head of programmes at Save the Children Fund, and revealed in today's New Statesman magazine, expresses "surprise" that charities and voluntary groups should "associate themselves

with a largely political statement charities were summoned to a of objectives and policy pro-

He goes on to attack Real World's agenda for reform, which he says would "under-mine Britain's economic competitiveness ... and make strong

A detail from John Major's letter

A fortnight after Mr Major's letter was sent, on 24 May, every charity member of Real World was contacted by the Charity Commissioners, raising concerns about the legality of their membership. Around a dozen Mr Major "stood by his letter".

meeting in London on 31 July.

There was some concern that Mr Major's letter was threatening us and that meetput-up job," said Neil Mac-Donald, head of SCF's information programme. "In the

event it was all very amicable. This is new ground for us and the Charity Commissioners and it needed clarification." Sara Parkin, the former

Green Party spokesperson and a prominent member of Real World, described the letter as: "No more than I would have expected from Mr Major. It is very depressing."

An Oxfam spokesman emphasised that Real World's

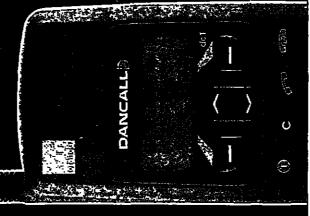
very careful to ensure they

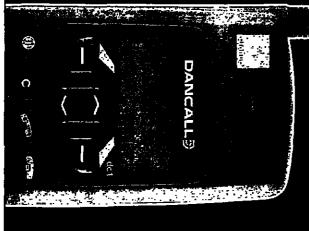
would not overstep Britain's strict charity rules by joining the coalition. "Each of us only campaigns on those parts of the Real World agenda for reform which come directly within our remit. We are campaigning on politics with a small p, 'he said. A spokesman for No 10 said

charity members had been

Portrait of power: Blood, Sweat and Tears, a portrait of Sir Winston Churchill which has hung in 10 Downing Street since the Conservatives' election victory in 1979, being sold for £150,000 at Sotheby's in London yesterday

Photograph: David Rose





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### **Drugs-bust police** falsified evidence

Three men jailed eight years ago for their alleged involvement in a drugs factory were cleared yesterday when the Court of Appeal held that officers of a regional crime squad had falsi-fied their surveillance logbook and lied to the court when challenged about it.

The appeal judges said the Crown's case at the trial - that squad officers based at Barkingside, east London, were made contemporaneously with the events - could not be supported. "We are satisfied that the log was written ex post facto," said Lord Justice Ward, sitting with Mr Justice Blofeld and Mr Justice Forbes.

"The authenticity of the log had become such an issue at the trial that doubts about its com-

and reliability of the other material recorded in it, namely the crucial observations. "The Crown fully accept that

if the evidence of the Region-

al Crime Squad as to the preparation of the log was false - and we find that it is - then the convictions are unsafe." fence allegation that the detective inspector in charge of the London Docklands drugs bust

code-named Operation

Trooper - planted a bag of am-

phetamines in a car belonging to one defendant. Lord Justice Ward said a photograph which, it was suggested, might show the officer approaching the car, had been suppressed, and an air of mys-

gation of planting. The court was not satisfied that drugs were planted, but the fresh evidence was sufficiently credible and cogent that it was capable of inducing a reasonable doubt in the minds of the jurors.

The judges quashed the 1988 convictions of Charles "Chic" Matthews and Kevin "Tommy" The judges had also heard Hole of conspiring to supply has served his 10-year sentence. but Mr Hole, who was also convicted of having a bag of the drug in his car with intent to supply, committed suicide while serving his eight-year term. His appeal was referred to the court posthumously by the Home

> Joe Pykett, who was jailed for 13 years for conspiring to produce and supply amphetamines, was freed with immediate effect.

### Heseltine puts boot into ramblers' right to roam

Stephen Goodwin Heritage Correspondent

Michael Heseltine yesterday stoked the political fires in the right-to-roam" debate - describing Labour's plans as un-workable and "a menace" to

farmers in the countryside. The deputy Prime Minister's outburst in response to a suggestion that landowners who receive state subsidies could not lain about allowing greater public access to the moors, took mountain and moor, subject to

premium?

the lid off an attempt by the common-sense restrictions for Country Landowners' Association to present its conference at Westminster as a search for

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quote

Road Atlas

As the prospect of a Labour government has loomed larger, so the CLA's campaign for a voluntary approach to increased access has gathered pace. But Tony Blair has not wavered on his rambler-predecessor John Smith's commitment to give the public a right to roam over

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management and conservation. Ewen Cameron, president

of the CLA, acknowledged that the access debate had been bedevilled with high emotion. accusation and lack of consensus". But on a very crowded island, satisfactory access could only be achieved by willing

partnership, he said. Elliot Morley, Labour's spokesman on rural attairs. commended voluntary initiatives and said the party certainly would not be going into the election on the slogan Vote Labour for a bobble hat at every window.

There would be no rush into legislation and Labour would consult widely, but there was also an issue of fairness.

Leading Article, page 17

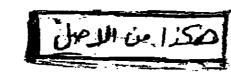
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This advertisement prepared by Banks Hoggins O'Shea on behalf of the publisher: the Referendum Party, 1st Floor, Dean Bradley House, 52 Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2AF.

L police

General Synod: Anglican elders are ringing the changes in church disciplinary measures and power politics

### Gay clergy to shelter under bishops' wings

Religious Affairs Correspondent

Anglican bishops will be able to protect gay priests from disci-plinary tribunals, the Church of England's General Synod unexpectedly decided yesterday. The Rev Michael Vasey, an evangelical gay theologian, won an amendment to the disciplinary process which would enable bishops to refuse to act

involving specified injury to individual persons". His amendment was described after the vote as "a charter for sodomy" by Mrs Margaret Brown, a prominent campaigner against women priests and

Dr Vasey himself told the synod that, without his amendment, the proposed new system of church courts would allow campaigners "with the aid of a computer, to take to law every gay priest in the Church of England who has land who has a partner; every bishop who connives at the admission of children to communion before confirmation" and

on complaints "except in cases

There was little doubt in the minds of synod members which of these cases was the most important. Earlier this year, Dr Vasey published a book arguing that present-day Christians should not be bound by the Biblical fulminations against homosexuality. Reform, an evangelical pressure group campaigning against gay clergy, at-tempted to have him sacked from the theological college

Yet his amendment was passed by a fairly clear majority, and without much drama. It was the second major change this week to the system of church courts proposed by a working party under Canon Alan Hawker; on Tuesday the synod rejected the idea that these courts could try doctrinal offences, and now they will only try such sexual offences as a bishop thinks should be tried.

in Durham where he teaches.

The Bishop of Hereford, the Right Rev John Oliver, put before the synod a hypothetical case: "A clerical member of this synod who comes down to London ... meets an old flame and commits adultery. Neither his wife nor his bishop know about

made and the bishop sees the clergyman and his wife and the matter is sorted out. But, if the complainant was bloodyminded, he could insist on his ary tribunal and, under the pro-

posals, the bishop can't stop it." The usually effective evangelical political machine failed in both cases to remove the discretion of bishops whom it sees as liberals. Mrs Brown, a vociferous traditionalist, complained after yesterday's vote that the synod had been bamboozled. "I think people were not aware of what it was," she said. "He blinded us with peop le who are looked on to be respectable. But there was a hidden agenda. It's sodomy. She added: "The church is

longing for the clergy to stand up and be counted. Where there has been adultery, living openly in a homosexual relationship, or denying the virgin birth and the bodily resurrection of Christ, I want these cases

'We will be better off with 500 priests who are good, than



Holy smoke: Members of the General Synod taking time out at Church House in London yesterday





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### Cathedrals outlaw the feuding priesthood

Andrew Brown

The General Synod yesterday approved wide-ranging changes to the government of cathedrals, designed to ensure that the long-running feud at Lincoln Cathedral can never be repeated. Proposals to remove the right of cathedral clergy to jobs for life will also be brought forward by the synod's revision committee, after a heartfelt plea from a Lincoln vicar, the Rev Peter Mullins.

The shadow of the Lincoln feud stretched over yesterday's debate. But there was laughter and applause for Roger Atkinson, a lay member of the synod from the city, when said that end when the main protagonists, the Dean, Dr Brandon Jackson, and the Sub-Dean, Canon Rex Davies, "pass into my jurisdiction as the coroner of the city".

Since Dr Jackson arrived in

Lincoln in 1988, the two men have exhausted professional mediators, survived investigations by the Fraud Squad, and refused the public exhortations of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, to resign. Dr Jackson was acquitted last year after a three-day trial on charges of adultery with Ms Verity Freestone, a cathedral verger. He has said that he will resign only if Canon Davies does.

The measure which the synod sent forward for revision yesterday will set up a committee with lay membership to run all cathedrals. The bishop will sit on the committee, and appoint a chairman, but he will have no like Lincoln, are run under constitutions in which only the the Right Rev Robert Hardy, has repeatedly called for his cathedral chapter to resign; the dean has responded only by demanding that the bishop resign.

Some of the newer cathedrals have protested against the reforms on the grounds that they already have lay representation on their governing bodies, and that the reforms will force them

But the Dean of Durham, the Very Rev John Arnold, said yesterday that the reforms, which were suggested by a commission chaired by Lady Howe in 1994, would not produce "a unitary ... system of government".

Professor David McClean. introducing the measure, said: "The individual traditions of they can have their Quinque Personae and their Six Preachcanons of the cathedrals have power. The Bishop of Lincoln, a chapter, a council, and a ers... But the key features of college of canons will be found

### £65m smuggling operation smashed

Jason Bennetto Crime Correspondent

One of the largest alcohol and cigarettes simigeling operations in Britain – worth an estimat-ed £65m – was smashed yesterday by Customs investigators. Forty people were arrested and about 100 businesses and homes were raided during the national and international investigation.

In the largest operation of its kind ever undertaken by HM Customs and Excise's national investigation service, huge quantities of smuggled wines, beers, spirits and cigarettes were recovered.

It is estimated that the frauds uncovered cost at least £65m in Yesterday's operation in-

The raids coincide with the

trips to France and filling vans with drink and tobacco.

Budget announcement that the Government is to launch a crackdown on revenue fraud. smuggling and tax evasion, in an attempt to raise £2.5bn more tax over the next three years. Alcohol and tobacco manufacturers have bitterly complained that vast quantities of goods are being brought over from France supposedly for personal use, but are being sold on the black market and illegally in shops. Smugglers have been making daily

At least three types of fraud are thought to have been foiled

by yesterday's operation. In the first, large quantities

Birmingham, various locations believed to have been sold on in Essex and Kent, and Poole in to the home market.

In another fraud, beer, wines and spirits were smuggled into this country from France without any duty being paid at the point of entry.

In addition, investigators are probing the alleged fraudulent reclaiming of duties originally paid in respect of beer which should have been exported, but which was in fact sold on the home market.

As well as the illicit alcohol. investigators impounded cash. cars, lorries and trailers

Jim McGregor, the service deputy chief investigation offi-cer, said: "This extensive operation is the culmination of intensive investigation both in the UK and abroad, aimed at major criminal organisations defrauding the Exchequer of volved raids on premises as far of spirits and cigarettes, classiapart as Newcastle upon Tyne, Keighley in West Yorkshire.

In the tirst, large quantities major criminal organisations defrauding the Exchequer of very large sums of excise duty and VAT."

### No more Fawlty hotels

Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

Tourists should be spared the trauma of staying in Basil Fawlty-style hotels when they visit Britain by being offered a national star-rating system for holiday accommodation, a cross-party Commons select committee said.

The system would end the confusion of the present starrating system operated by a wide range of bodies, including the three tourists boards for Eng-land, Wales and Scotland, and motoring organisations such as the RAC and the AA.

and the motoring organisations will produce a unified starrating system for hotels in Britain by the end of the year. But the committee, chaired

by Gerald Kaufman, the former shadow foreign secretary, said if that did not work the Goverrunent would have to step in with a compulsory statutory scheme to warn tourists of the Fawity Towers-style hotels. As a first step, the committee recommended that a statutory list

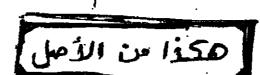
be drawn up of premises offer-The Commons select com- National Heritage, Virginia tourists to Britain.

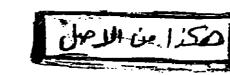
mittee on National Heritage heard that the tourist boards Bottomley, warned that a statu-tory star-rating scheme would tory star-rating scheme would be bureaucratic and the tourist industry would have to bear the cost. It could raise the prospect of Basil Fawlty facing visits from the Government inspector of hotels, instead of the man

from the Good Hotel Guide. The committee said the level of hotel facilities was relative ly easily measured. But the Latrating would have to sum up the quality of service too.

Its report also recommended a four-fold increase in the grants to the British Tourist Board, and ing accommodation to visitors.

The Secretary of State for the failure to do more to bring





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### Magistrates find no case for 'name and shame' plan

Jason Bennetto and Patricia Wynn Davies

A Government initiative to allow courts to name and shame juveniles who commit minor offences was effectively killed off yesterday after magistrates denounced the plan as seriously flawed.

Under the proposal, magistrates at a youth court could name a defendant under the age of 18 if they decided it was in the public interest. The initiative is aimed at persistent offenders and nuisance crimes.

But the Magistrates' Association said yesterday that the scheme would encourage greater offending and stigmatise innocent siblings. The success of the scheme would also depend on journalists being pre-sent at the youth courts - which rarely happens - and for the de-tails to be published or broad-

At present, restrictions on identification exist to protect juveniles because of their age and vulnerability. Under the Government's plan, those acquitted would retain their anonymity. Reporters at Crown courts. where more serious offences are dealt with, can already name juveniles at the judge's discretion.

Office minister, announced the

ment to the Crime (Sentences) Bill, currently going through its committee stage at Westmin-ster. He said: The prospect of being identified publicly may act as a deterrent to young offenders. It should also prompt many of them and their families to think more carefully about their actions.

But a spokeswoman for the Magistrates' Association said: "We are not keen. It can cause siblings who are not guilty difficulty at school. It can cause the offenders to be hero-worshiped if they get their name in the paper. Also, in the majority of cases, the local community already know who the offenders are without splashing their names in the paper."

"We are very pleased that the Government has allowed us discretion whether to use the

powers or not," she added. ■ Another Government amendment to the Crime Bill is likely to increase the daily prison population by 1,400 inmates, requiring two extra jails. penal groups warned yesterday.

The amendment to the Bill's so-called "honesty in sentencing" provisions would ensure that the sentence for a prisoner now sentenced to between three months and four years



# **Telecoms** regulator to police digital TV

**Mathew Horsman** Media Editor

The Government yesterday tabled its long-awaited guide-lines on digital television, confirming that wide powers will be exercised by Oftel, the telecoms regulator, in the regulation of

digital set-top boxes. But the announcement drew a mixed response from leading broadcasters, including the BBC, who said that they would not be enough to ensure fair and open competition in the supply of digital television services. They warned privately that Rupert Murdoch's BSkyB, already the dominant pay-TV broadcaster, would emerge with control of the digital gateway.

Sky countered that the guide-lines looked "stricter than all other countries with digital TV". Unveiling the draft guidelines in Parliament yesterday, Ian

Lang, President of the Board of Trade, said: "The basic approach of these regulations is to ensure that all broadcasters can gain access on fair, reasonable and non-discriminatory terms, to any digital set-top boxes which can receive their signal."

He added: "We have made provision for a range of powers to allow the director general of Oftel [Don Cruickshank] to move quickly to firm and effective enforcement in the event of

any anti-competitive behaviour."
"This regulatory regime will not of itself ensure that UK viewers reap the full benefits of digital television," John Birt, Director-General of the BBC, said. "It is essential for consumer choice and broadcast industry competition that no individual company or group of companies controls the digital gateway."

The ITV Association said it was "encouraged the Government had gone some way toward recognising the important issues we raised about conditional access". But it added: They have not gone as far as we would have liked."

The guidelines cover the exed issue of "conditional access" to digital television - the means by which consumers will be able receive television channels, interactive services and the internet through digital trans-

Traditional broadcasters had lobbied hard for a firmer approach to control of the "gate-way," which they fear will be dominated by BSkyB because Sky will be first in the market with its set-top boxes for a 200channel digital satellite service. planned for next autumn. Plans by the cable industry and operators of digital terrestrial television to launch competing digital platforms are lagging BSkyB's satellite preparations.

To avoid giving BSkyB an unfair advantage as the "first mover" in the digital market, rival broadcasters had hoped for mandatory licensing of conditional access technology for all broadcasters, so that they would be able to supply consumers with their own "smart cards" that could be used in Sky's boxes. Instead, the Government has decided to leave it to Oftel to decide whether BSkyB

is operating fairly. 'It is important that early investment and innovation be re-warded. the DTI said yesterday, justifying its decision not to accept undue regulatory burden on those who invest first in the marketplace.

Polly Toynbee, page 18



John Birt: Concern over

### **Baldry fires** new salvo in trawler war

Nicholas Schoon Environment Correspondent

The Government opened a new front in its war against "quota-hopping" foreign fishing vessels yesterday, threatening arrest for crews which could not speak

English. The Fisheries Minister, Tony Baldry, said that in implementing a new European Union safety at sea directive, the Government wanted to insist that at least one crew member of any UK-registered vessel should be able to understand and make himself understood in English when communicating in UK waters with the Coastguard and harbour masters. Any breach of this could lead to a fishing boat being es-corted into a British port by a fisheries protection vessel to an-

swer charges.

"It seems to me perfectly reasonable that any fishing boat flying the Red Ensign should have at least one person among the crew who can speak English," he told journalists.

The struggle against quota-hopping was the top item in Mr Baldry's 10-point package for the future of the British fishing industry which he announced yesterday.

About 160 British-registered boats are owned by firms or individuals in other EU countries. chiefly Spain, and are largely foreign-crewed. They are allo-cated part of Britain's fish quota under the EU's Common Fisheries Policy, even though they usually land their fish in other countries and the UK wins next to no economic benefit.

These quota-hoppers represent about 20 per cent of the UK fishing fleet, and they take 40 per cent of the UK's plaice quota, 44 per cent of the hake and significant proportions of other species.

Mr Baldry said he would also press for decentralisation of the Common Fisheries Policy, so that far more decision making over quotas and management is done among smaller groups of nations concerning the waters they alone share.

#### Europe gives £1.3bn to cut unemployment

School leavers who can't find jobs, the long-term unemployed, and women battling will operate the projects, against discrimination in the Job-seekers aged between workplace will be the principal beneficiaries of training schemes to be funded by a £1.3bn grant for Britain approved by the European Commission yesterday, writes Katherine Butler in Brussels.

In a significant victory for supporters of devolved han-dling of EU grants, the Commission is insisting the schemes will have to be implemented on previous spending programmes, which were controlled exclu-

Job-seekers aged between 16 and 24 will receive top priority; £626m of the total will be funnelled towards giving them skills. training and upon skills, training and work experience. Schemes likely to win funding will focus on young people who have quit school, have no vocational qualifications and are most vulnerable to becoming marginalised. The long-term unemployed will be targeted with spending of a regional basis, in contrast to £512m, those who have not worked for two years or more, and the over 50s.



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# Pill that can help dyslexics think straight

Susan Emmett

Dyslexia and a disorder that causes a form of childhood clumsiness could be treated by taking three fatty acids in pill form, it was claimed yesterday. Researchers at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School at Hammersmith Hospital, west

London, have shown that dyslexics have abnormal brain. chemistry that can be corrected by treatment with fats. And a combination of tuna oil, evening primrose oil, vita-

min E and thyme oil was shown to allow better communication between the eye and the brain. A separate by study by the University of Surrey revealed that children with dyspraxia also known as "clumsy child syndrome" - were less awkward af-

tested on co-ordination, fine

movement and balance. In tests over three months,the children improved their manual dexterity and balance. Rehaviour as well as the co-ordination needed for normal playground activities. But there was still a gap between their skills and those of other children.

Surrey, said dyslexia, dyspraxia and attention deficit disorder guage skills. I haven't seen any were closely associated - lead-ing to problems which are distressing both for children and their parents. Such problems often lead to disruptive behaviour

deal with words."

balance problems. About 2 per cent of children are affected.

and failure at school.

Five per cent of school children are very dyslexic and a furdisorder in a mild form.

Attending yesterday's con-ference on the research, were the parents of 12-year-old Christopher Marshall, who was identified as being dyslexic when he was eight and has suffered from low self-esteem to the point of pulling out his hair and harming himself. Since he started taking the supplement Efalex - a combination of the oils - a year ago, his parents ter taking fatty acids. Fifteen say he has improved at school children with dyspraxia were and become much calmer.

Mr Dennis Bateman, dyslexia consultant, said: "I think the Efalex certainly did influence him but I'm not sure it was the only factor. His consearchers say this led to centration is now far better improved writing skills and be- and his productivity has improved but this could be due to his maturing."
Liz Brooks, executive direc-

tor for the Dyslexia Institute, said: "It does appear to help the Dr Jackie Stordy, a nutri-tionist from the University of the biggest problem with dyslex-



al: Ian Rockley, a fish farmer, and Andrea Buckley, of Kent Area Environment Agency, releasing barbel, dace, chub and roach into the

#### DAILY POEM

#### The Artist's Wife

By Tessa Rose Chester

'An active line on a walk' - Paul Klee

My line returns from its walk more smudged than I remember,

blurred by continuing rain. Almost a wash of grey.

Dressed in several charcoal veils

needing more emphasis around the eyes, the breast.

slip deep like a nver

down stairs to the gloomy place

where I have been waiting to draw this wet vein.

this dark blood into my arms again.

Tessa Rose Chester was first an illustrator and is now curator of children's books at Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood. Oxford published her first collection Provisions of Light

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### Local authorities to take what the Budget has given

Colin Brown, Nicholas Schoon and Judith Judd

Homeowners and tenants will face increases of at least six per cent in their council tax next year to foot part of the bill for the one penny cut in income tax announced yesterday in the Budget.

Local councils predicted cuts in a broad range of services in 1997, saying the cash settlement they were getting from central Government was even tighter than last year's. Labour estimated that it would mean a rise for average Band D council tax payers of around £40 next year, but it could be higher in many areas. John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, said the average band D council tax bill could be £591 next

Mr Gummer said he intended England's councils to spend £45.7 billion in the next financial year -2.5 per cent more in than they should have spent this year and a rise which is just below the current rate of inflation. But he also made it clear that they were expected to finance a substantially larger rise in education spending, 3.6 per cent. plus similar rises for fire

er services, which will either have to be cut or maintained by measures which increase efficiency.

But the financial stresses on councils will be even greater, because trade unions will be putting them under pressure for above-inflation increases in wages, and because many are already spending more than their decreed Gov-

ernment budget. That means they will shed jobs - up to 30,000 was the loss suggested by the Chartered Institute

Leading article, page 17 Hamish McRae, page 19 Business, page 20

of Public Finance and Accoun-

More than three quarters of finance for local councils comes from central Government, either in grants or through the local rates for businesses which it sets. This total from Whitehall to the councils is going up by only 1.5 per cent – which is why council tax, has to go up by double the rate of inflation.

Frank Dobson, the Shadow En-

brigades and policing. That means below-inflation increases for oth-Tories are giving with one hand and taking away with the other."

The Government is also setting a tight spending limit on councils - any which try to spend above their cap will have central government funds withdrawn. For several councils, which are spending more than the Government thinks they should this year, that means they can only increase their budgets by one per cent or less - well under the rate of inflation.

Mr Gummer rejected scrap-ping the caps on spending, after deciding that restraint on the councils was needed to fulfil the Government's target of reducing overall public expenditure as a proportion of GDP to 40 per cent and lower after next vear.

The Environment Secretary was blamed last year by Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, for failing to secure enough to pay for

The Government is giving the highest priority to spending on schools for the run-up to the election. Of the £591 million extra money promised for schools in this ar's settlement for councils, £500 million will be needed just to keep



### Aid cuts 'are a war of attrition on world's poor'

British aid agencies lodged angry protests yesterday at an 8.4 per cent cut in overseas aid spending announced last night. Julian Filochowski, director of the Coulcile Foundation for Overseas Aid Catholic Foundation for Overseas Aid and spokesman for a coalition of UK agencies, said British aid to the Third World would be slashed by £180m.

"Is this the hallmark of a civilised nation?" he asked. "Following last year's cut, this represents a continued war of attrition against the world's poor."

A group of influential supporters of overseas aid joined the agencies to urge the Government to think again.

The group, which includes the Rt Rev Richard Harries, Bishop of Oxford, and TUC General Secretary, John Monks, said properly targeted aid promoted

long-term development and growth
and could help prevent conflict.

"We are dismayed that the Government
has made a further cut to its already declining aid budget, particularly at a timer when Central Africa is in crisis. they said in a joint statement. Clare Short, Labour spokesman for overseas development, described the new cuts as "immoral". She said: "Last year, they cut overseas aid by £124m and

promised an increase this year of £47m. But the Overseas Development Administration said cuts to £2bn in 1997/98 and £2.1bn in 1998/99 reflected a £150m fall in the amount Britain was forecast to pay through the European Union. The Treasury has guaranteed to pay any spending in excess of the forecasts, while Britain's bilateral aid budget has been protected at £971m.

### Howard sets priorities in crime battle

lason Bennetto Crime Correspondent

Action against violent crime, burglaries, and drug trafficking, combined with a drive to get more bobbies on the beat, are the key policing priorities for the coming year, the Government said yesterday.

The announcement came as the Home Office published a breakdown of the 3.7 per cent increase in funding to the 43 police forces in England and

After strong lobbying from a number of rural forces, the Home Office backed down on earlier proposals to give more to forces covering the larger urban areas and has spread the extra £247m fairly equally among the various constabularies.

Of the four largest forces, the Metropolitan police will get an extra £38.6m - about 2 per cent - to take their total to nearly £1.7bn, Greater Manchester receives an additional £8.6m to £351m, West Midlands £9.4m to £353m, and West Yorkshire £6.6m to £267m. The total bud-

get for the forces is about £7.3bn.

Ray White, president of the Association of Chief Police Officers, and Chief Constable of Dyfed-Powys, said police wel-comed the settlement, but warned: "Police budgets in general do remain under heavy pressure due, for example, to increasing public demand, new legislation, and pension com-mitments. There is need to

make provision for considerable investment in new technology to improve efficiency."

As well as announcing the funding proposals, Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, said his policing priorities for 1997-98, were to maintain and if possible increase the detection rate for violent crime; to target and prevent crimes which are a particular local problem, including drug-related criminality; to provide high-visibility policing so as to reassure the public; and to respond promptly to emergency calls from the

public. He said: "My proposals " demonstrate our continuing commitment to helping the police in the fight against crime. This is good news for the Police Service and good news for local communities."

He added: "The Prime Minister promised more cash to pay for extra bobbies on the beat. This promise will be met next year as it was this. Every force will receive a fair share of the funding for 5,000 extra police

constables over three years."

Jack Straw, shadow Home Secretary, was sceptical about the pledges. He said: "Michael Howard's promise to provide an extra 2,000 police officers will be greeted with extreme scepticism by a public weary of broken Tory promises.

"At the last general election.

John Major promised an extra 1,000 officers in a year. Yet numbers have actually fallen

### Heritage cut puts art at risk ...

Stephen Goodwin Heritage Correspondent

Works of art and other national treasures have been put at greater risk of being exported and lost to the country as a result of a 37 per cent cut in Budget support for the National Heritage Memorial Fund.

Set up to remember those who have given their lives for Britain, the fund's grant has been cut from £8m in the current financial year to £5m next year. The cut exemplifies fears expressed by leading figures in the heritage world that the Lottery is increasingly being seen by ministers as a substitute for

state support.

Lord Rothschild, Chairman of NHMF said it was "a sad day" when an institution which had done so much for such a small outlay was to be so drastically undermined.

Earlier this year, the fund gave a grant of £3.6m to save the Becket Chasse, a casket depict-Cathedral. It is now on display at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London.

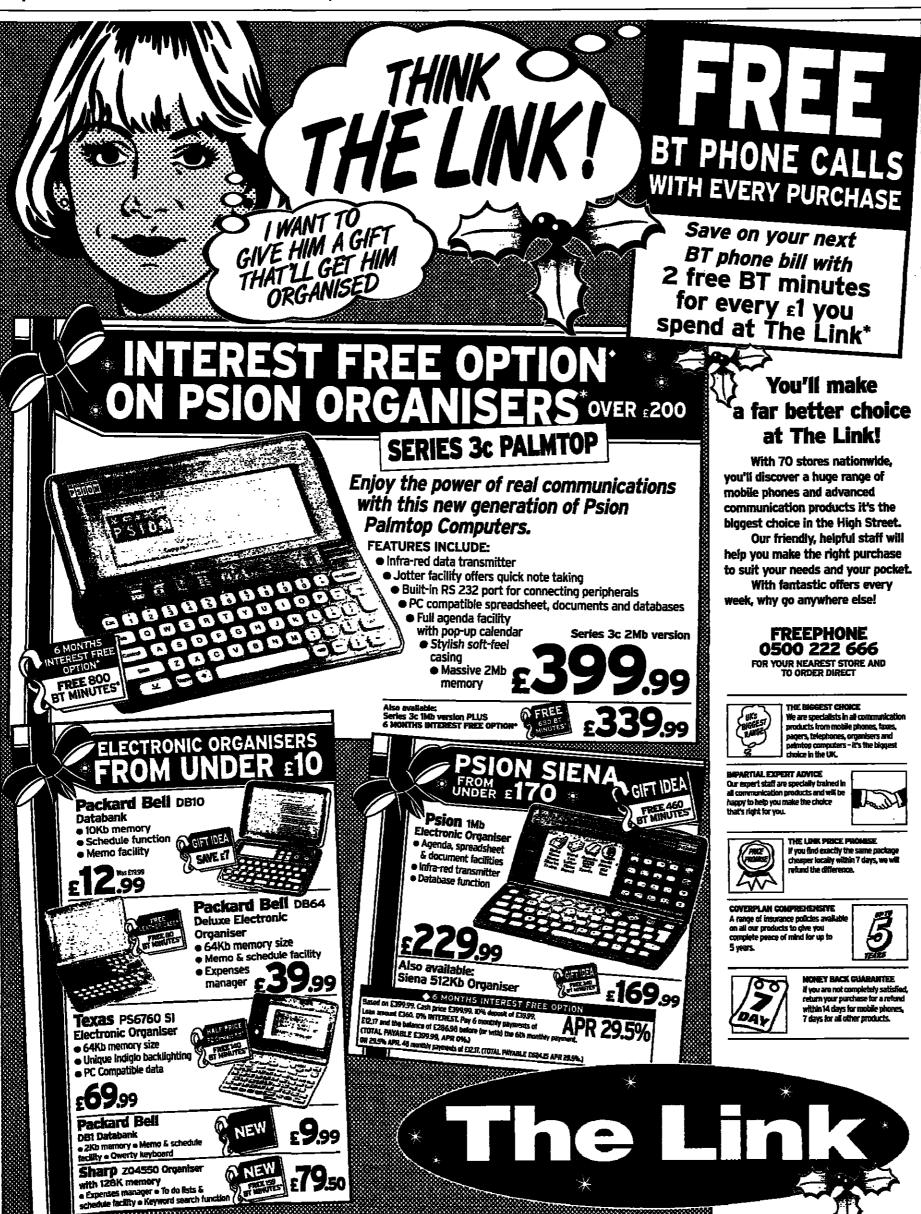
has, in the words of its chairman, happily steered clear of falling into the treacle of bureaucracy. It has made over 1,000 awards and distributed over £175m -

none of it lottery money. One grant of £3m helped keep the neo-classical sculpture The Three Graces by Antonio Canova in Britain, but the fund has also helped save a colony of horse-shoe bats.

Lord Rothschild said the budget cut meant: "The fund of last resort will no longer he in a position to save so many items of national importance.

Only last month, he called on John Major to honour his commitment that money raised by the lottery would not replace existing Government spending. But Virginia Bottomley, Sec-

retary of State for National Heritage, said her own view of the lottery had "always been at pragmatic, problem-solving one". Mrs Bottomley has at least ensured that Sir Jocelyn Stevens, Chairman of English ing the martyrdom of St Heritage, was not forced to Thomas a Becket at Canterbury carry out his threat to quit if the quango fared badly in the spending round. EH's grant for 97-98 will be £104.9m In its 15 years, the NHMF £1.8m more than planned.



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### Massaging the body politic: From Demon Eyes to Honest John





### Brown: **Families** better off under us

Political Correspondent

Chancellor, set out his alternaterday, listing pledges of smaller Clarke's dismissive remarks last school classes, shorter NHS waiting lists, jobs for young people and a "fair tax cut" in VAT on fuel.

Leading a Commons debate on the Budget, and in his broad-cast reply to the Chancellor's statement, he said "every family in Britain would be better off" under Labour.

Bolstered by overnight. polling by the party which suggested that voters were unimpressed by the Budget, believing that the Conservatives "give with one hand and take with the other", Mr Brown needled Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and his number two, William Waldegrave, into intervening in

Mr Brown quoted the Chancellor's interview at the end of September in which he admitted "the public will be deeply suspicious of any tax cuts in the Budget". Mr Brown told MPs: "His judgement on this will be proved absolutely right."

Mr Clarke leapt to his feet, declaring: "I shouldn't allow my-self to be provoked by this nonsense." He insisted he had said the voters would be suspi-cious of unsustainable tax cuts.

Mr Brown responded withsustained mockery, saying that the 1992 Roy manifesto had got only one word wrong. Unfortunately, several key sentences had the word "not" missing, he said. Where the manifesto said, "We will continue to reduce taxes", it should have read, "We will not continue to reduce taxes".

In every library in Britain, the primary school and sat in class-Tory manifesto should be re- es of more than 30."

catalogued as a work of political fiction, he said.

He sarcastically welcomed the Chancellor's conversion to the cause of closing tax loopyear when Labour suggeste lions of pounds could be raised in this way. Closing loopholes was "as good as brass washers", "the economics of Alice in Wonderland" and "not a serious option for revenue raising", Mr Clarke had said.

He then provoked Mr Waldegrave, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, to intervene to contest Labour's claim that NHS spending was planned to rise by just 0.2 and 0.1 per cent in real terms after next year.

But Mr Brown's apparently detailed knowledge of the dis-puted figures enabled him to get the better of the exchange. He responded to a Tory at-

tack on his plans for a windfall tax on the privatised utilities to pay for a welfare-to-work programme. "The windfall tax is not a tax on ordinary families. VAT is a tax on ordinary families," he

told the Commons.

He underlined the fact that the tax burden will rise after the Budget measures come into effect, because of the fibn a year hangover from previous tax rises.

He quoted the figure for a net tax rise figure of £350m a year from the official Red Book. "Now I know the Chancellor didn't read the Maastricht treaty, but he surely should have read the Red Book," he said.

Mr Brown underlined his

message in an innovatory broadcast last night, in which he declared: "It makes me angry that this morning more than one million of our children went to

### Inquiry into leak 'making progress'

The search for the mole who leaked key Budget secrets 24 hours in advance of Kenneth Clarke's speech began in earnest yesterday amid a welter

of contradictory press specula-tion, writes John Rentoul. The Prime Minister said: "I think the inquiries have made some progress ... but we're not there yet. It was a disgraceful leak. It was someone behaving in an untrustworthy fashion. I hope we will find out who it is soon and I'm glad we managed to get an injunction so nothing was print-ed in advance. I'm delighted

the injunction was honoured." With dark hints from government sources that the docunents returned to Downing ports on the molehunt yester- effort to cut losses."

day focused on Peter Honnam, a freelance journalist who used to work for the newspaper.

Piers Morgan, editor of the Mirror, said: "We have not paid any money. I am not going to go into details of the source or private arrangements."

A spokesman for The Stationery Office - "HM" was dropped when the body was privatised earlier this year - confirmed it was co-operating with police inquiries.
The Stationery Office is be-

lieved to handle the printing of some of the press releases which are issued with the formal Budget documents. It was 36 of these releases which were obtained by the Mirror. The documents were Street by the Daily Mirror on probably printed last Friday - the Monday night contained same day that the new owners something strange which of the Stationery Office ancould identify the source, re-nounced 900 redundancies in an

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### Poland shamed by child sex abuse scandal

Central Europe Correspondent

Poland yesterday became the latest European country to be rocked by a child sex abuse scandal when it emerged that more than 100 boys had been lured into a homosexual paedophile ring masterminded by a former army officer.

According to police investigators in the northern city of Szczecin, foreigners, including Swedes, Germans and Russians, were among the cus-tomers of the ex-officer, known by his underworld name as "the Major".

"Since the fall of the Berlin Wall, children from East Europe have been particularly vulnerable to this sort of trade," said Helena Karlen of ECPAT, a lobby group pressing for an end to child prostitution. "Freer travel and communication has made them an easier target for

western paedophiles." children in Europe is hardly new, awareness of the problem was heightened by the grue-some revelations in Belgium

alleged paedophile ring in-volving the systematic abuse volving the systematic abuse and boys engaged in sexual and even murder of young activities. Boys interviewed in

rings have come to light in Hungary, Slovakia and Austria, prompting fears of an extensive network of inter-linked paedophile groups, many of which appeared to be making use of the Internet to transmit porno-graphic pictures of children and contact addresses.

Initial findings in Szczecin point to more conventional methods of soliciting for custom. According to police, "the Major" placed a series of adverts in gay magazines in which he offered to act as a go-between for homosexuals seeking sex partners. The vast majority of the ex-officer's clients which numbered more than 1000 - were only interested in sex with other adults. But some Although the sexual abuse of 100 to 150 had specifically re-

quested underage partners. The ring's existence was revealed late on Tuesday by Pol-ish television's Wiadomosci

earlier this year centering on Marc Dutroux, the leader of an explicit but electronicallyexplicit but electronicallyblurred photographs of men the programme, mainly aged 14 Since then, further child sex or 15, said they had been picked up at railway stations and amusement arcades and taken

back to the Major's home where, having been promised interesting computer games, they were plied with alcohol and sexually abused.
Their names would then appear on the ex-officer's register, where they would be listed as minors seeking "sponsors" who would support them financial-

ly. One of the boys already questioned said he had had a

sponsor" who promised to try and get him Swedish citizen-

"People you would never suspect, well-educated and well-established in their fields. can turn out to be child abusers," said Mrs Karlen. "And although they are obviously not all connected or



Take aim: A demonstrator throws an egg at the Serbian television building in Belgrade during protests against a rerun of local

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### Tudjman and \* Milosevic face mass protests

Tony Barber Europe Editor

Anti-government demonstra-tors in Serbia and Croatia took to the streets again yesterday as a tide of popular unrest gath-ered against the autocratic political systems of Presidents Slobodan Milosevic and Franjo Tudjman.

Tens of thousands of Serbs marched through Belgrade to denounce the authorities for organising a rerun of local elections which the democratic opposition says it won freely and fairly on 17 November.

In Zagreb, about 1,000 public sector workers called for the tributions to last year's Dayton nation of Croatia's Prime Minister, Zlatko Matesa, during a demonstration for higher wages. Meanwhile, the liberal head of Croatia's Supreme Court, Krunislav Olujic, who was suspended by the authorities on Tuesday for alleged sex with minors, condemned the decision as illegal and politically motivated.

The protests pose difficult policy choices for Western gov-ernments, which have relied heavily on Mr Milosevic and Mr Tudjman to keep the fragile year-long peace in former Yugoslavia. Although neither leader appears on the point of falling from power, the demonstrations are a reminder of the discontent and frustrations that have long lain below the surface in Serbia and Croatia.

The Croatian protests were sparked by an inept attempt by the government to close a pop-ular independent radio station,

while the Serbian unrest followed the annulment of municipal election victories by the opposition Zajedno (Together) coalition. Taken together, the protests have revealed a yearning for democratic change that places a question mark over the Western courtship of Mr. Milosevic and Mr Tudjman as: agents of peace and stability in

the Balkans, Both men were instrumental in breaking up former Yu-goslavia and colluded, directly or indirectly, in the de facto par-tition of Bosnia-Herzegovina during the war of 1992-95. Yet both also made important con-

With thousands of Nato troops in Bosnia. Western governments have preferred to focus on the roles of Mr Milosevic and Mr Tudjman as guarantors of the peace, rather than highlight the authoritarian features of their domestic systems. This has caused bitterness in the Serbian and Croatian opposition. whose members contend that the West is compromising its principles by co-operating with Mr Milosevic and Mr Tudiman.

Mr Tudjman vowed to resist foreign interference in Croatia's internal affairs under what he called the pretext of human rights concerns.

Mr Milosevic has reacted to

the unrest in Serbia by restricting the print run of the country's most popular inde-pendent newspaper, Blic. He has also ensured that state television has barely reported the daily protests in Belgrade.

### Juppé passionate about the euro

The French Prime Minister. Alain Juppé, yesterday mount-ed a forthright and stylish defence of the franc and France's com-mitment to the single European currency, describing it as a "fac-tor for stability without precedent" that would give Europe a currency of "critical mass" in

relation to the dollar and the yen. Mr Juppé also supported German calls for a monetary system that would embrace both those European currencies which intended to join the single currency at the start, and those which did not (the "ins" and the "outs"), to prevent the outs benefiting from the flexibility of their currency in the transitional period. He said he hoped such a mechanism would be agreed at the European summit in Dublin next month.

Mr Juppé was opening a fivehour debate in the French parliament which had been called to hear a ministerial statement in advance of the Dublin summit but became, in effect, France's first, and highly impressive, par-liamentary debate on the euro. The transformation from hum-

drum recital to high parliamen-tary occasion took place thanks to a magazine article penned by the former president, Valery Giscard d'Estaing, last week in which he advocated a de facto devaluation of the franc, both against the Deutschmark and against the dollar.

His discussion of two tahoo subjects - the pegging of the franc to the Deutschruark and the abandonment of the "strong franc" - had unleashed a torrent of passions for and against, and destabilised the franc on international markets for several

Mr Juppe with the clear back-ing of President Chirac, used yesterday's debate to set out France's "clear and coherent policy towards Europe" and to offer a point-by-point rebuttal of the arguments deployed by Mr Giscard d'Estaing

He insisted that the was no? need for any change in the rate of the franc to the Deutschmark which had remained "remarkably stable without any artificial devices over the months" and cited France's strong foreign trade surplus as a reason why devalu-

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Algiers — "It's worse than you think, Monsieur Robert," our driver said. And who were we o'disbelieve him? The stories of throat-cutting and rape in the countryside outside Algiers are tiue, the fear in the city almost

palpable.
"Take your badge off," an offirial shouted at me as I left a government building yesterday norning. He was being kind— he didn't want me to walk the streets of Algiers with a ministry pass proclaiming my identity as a foreign journalist. Staying dive has become the preoccuation of everyone here.
"Algers La Blanche" is still a

place of breathtaking beauty, with its white-painted French apartments running down to the great and wind-wrinkled bay. But one looks at it through a glass darkly. As many as 200 nen and women are now dying every week at the hands of the "Islamists" and government security men in the country's ter-

r fying war.
The figure is widely believed, hut there is no official death toll fiom a military-backed government which not only controls security" news but insists that its "war against terrorism" is so successful that Algerians should vote today in a constitutional

an and

vic face

protests

13

The police have already moved into schools to prevent the Islamic Armed Group (GIA) blowing up polling sta-tions. In the slums of Bab el-Qued, the people have stocked up on food in case the GIA follows through on its threat to "break the neck" of anyone who votes. Given the record of the past few weeks, neck-breaking ould be a charitable way of dying, though you wouldn't know that from the papers. The government has seen to that.

In yesterday's edition of Liberté, for example, you could find some ritual expressions of condolence in the personal col-



umns for the families of Madame Miassa Khellil and Mr Rabah Tariket, both recently "deceased". There was further grief expressed to families for the "cruel loss" of "Zaddem Sid All, for his wife and for their two small daughters, Naziha and Selma". Since things are supposed to be getting better in A)geria, mourners cannot say how their loved-ones died.

A little resrearch by The Independent, however, revealed

Stories of rape and throatcutting in the

countryside are true, fear in the city is palpable

the truth. Madame Khellil and Mr Tariket, who were both government officials in Boumerdes, were stopped by Islamists wear-ing police uniform at a faux bar-rage – a fake roadblock – on the road to Tiaret. Their throats

Zaddem Sid Ali and his family - he worked for the government furniture import company - were stopped on a road near Chlef and assassinated. Noone would say how.

So have 50,000 died in the Algerian war since the government suspended the elections which the Islamic Salvation Front were due to win in 1991? Or 60,000? Or 70,000?

All we are told is that a vote today will help to secure the democracy which President

year ago set in motion. And we Europeans - as frightened of Algeria's calamity as we are des-perate to ignore it - are being invited to believe that the new constitution will prevent political parties based on religion, effectively depriving the outlawed FIS of any future existence. There will be no more Islamic victories in future elections.

But the new constitution also provides for a new Algerian upper house of parliament, onethird of whose members will be appointed by President Zeroual and three-quarters of whose members will have to approve new legislation - which effectively gives the president a veto over the entire parliament.

It also acknowledges an Arab identity and recognises the Americal language of the powerful Kabyle minority – without officially acknowledge

ing the language.
Opponents of the regime thus suspect that the new constitution - far from reconstruct-ing democracy - is intended to provide a facade of phuralism behind which the old National Liberation Front (FLN) and their cronies, along with "soft" Islamic groups, such as the Algerian Hamas movement, will recreate the old one-party

And when Dr Said Saadi, the Kabyle leader of the Rassemblement de la Culture et la Democratie (RDP), tried to put Algeria's democracy to the test yesterday, it was indeed found sadly wanting. Having been invited to address journalists at the government's press centre, he was forbidden entry by a policeman – a very large policeman in a blue uniform with lots of silver braid - on the grounds that the RDP leader did not possess



Climate of fear: Hooded Algerian police officers check a car at a roadblock in Blida, 19 miles west of Algiers. Police have already moved into schools to prevent the Islamic Armed Group blowing up polling stations for today's vote for a new democratic constitution

off there than in this suffocat-

But there was no coffee for us at the Aurassi, just words. Harsh, dark words of pessimism. "In Algeria, no-one listens to us unless they do it with listening devices," he muttered.

"A year after the presidential elections, the political impasse a government badge. is total ... society is ruled by ter"OK," Dr Saadi shrugged in ror ... the former FLN people our direction, "I invite you to are taking over ... the press is take coffee with me at the attacked, corruption is taking off

Aurassi Hotel - we're better again ... nothing seems to dis- rested "at Kalashnikov point" courage or deter the regime even if this leads to a social ex-

> It went on and on. Poverty, corruption, censorship. "Those who are not killed by the GIA are persecuted by the regime, Dr Saadi announced. When a man in Berjaia had supported the RDP's call for a referendum boycott two days ago, he had been kidnapped - the implica-tion was that this had been done by the security authorities -

while 12 students had been ar-

because they criticised President Zeroual. An old man, Dr Saadi added, had told him how parliament had more rights under the French than under the current Algerian regime. Algeria was not experiencing a civil war because "this is not a war

against civilians". Algerians in France, able to vote early, have shown little enthusiasm for the referendum. Of those I spoke to here, some

between civilian parties but

of voting again, others claimed the poll was a trap, while one enthusiastically supported the new constitution on the grounds that Algeria needs a dictatorship.

All across Algiers, you can see the gap-toothed symbols of nism. The wreckage of the Hotel d'Angleterre, blown up by a bomb in September – one dead, said the government, 10 said a café proprietor, 83 said a man whose friend lost a leg in the explosion.

shop in Dr Franz Fannon Street, "The police used to take breakfast there, so they bombed it."

'No wonder Dr Saadi's bleakness is infectious. Firmly supporting the village "autodefence" militias - widely believed to include death squads - he had no doubts about the Islamists.

"Fundamentalism is like death," he said. "You only ex-

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# World Bank despairs of US capital

John Carlin

Critics of Marion Barry, the convicted crack-smoker who acts as mayor of Washington DC, have been describing the capital of the world's mightiest nation for some years now as an outpost of the Third World. Fanciful?

A ludicrous, racially inspired exaggeration? In the past, maybe, but no longer. Consider the facts. A retired army general has led a silent coup to overthrow the tin-pot mayor and the World Bank has suggested that in order to provide citizens with "decent education and other basic services" it would be wise for the authorities to learn from the experience of developing countries.

James Wolfensohn, the pres-

Mayor Barry has enjoyed the perks of his position as Washington sinks into a bog of depravity

ident of the World Bank, said in a speech in Washington on Tues-day that he would like members of his staff with experience of combating poverty abroad to work more closely with community groups around the city, to contribute their international expertise in areas such as health, nutrition, education.

"One of the clear lessons we have witnessed in a developing countries," said Mr Wolfen-sohn, addressing Washington dignitaries in a luxury downtown hotel, "is that investment in education pays off.

"It worked in East Asia . . . As you all know, improving the quality of education must be a cornerstone of Washington's economic and social revival."

and other American patriots present did not take offence at being lectured by an Australian

in the manner he might employ before an audience in Kinshasa it was because they knew he was speaking bitter truths.

Mayor Barry fits the profile perfectly of the caricature Third World dictator. A self-deluded narcissist who surrounds himself with yes-men and criminal-minded cronies, the mayor has sat back and enjoyed the perks of his position as Washington sinks into a bog of misery and de-pravity. The city is divided, as sharply as Johannesburg and Soweto ever were, into pockets of white affluence and large swathes of dereliction where the only people on the crime in-

fested streets are impoverished, often drug-addicted blacks.

It took action by Congress last week to throw out the elected school board and replace it with a new system headed by a hard man from the army, General Julius Becton. A similar clean-out is expected soon in the police department,

soon in the police department, the city government's most powerful institution.

Under Mayor Barry's stewardship such was the collapse in the department's hiring standards that the Washington Post was moved to write this week that "the police conducted." that "the police conducted background checks Caligula could pass".

Mayor Barry, who said "I know I've been a great mayor" upon his return last week from an 11-day trip to the Far East, is in denial. One of the guests on the podium at the World Bank function on Tuesday, he left the room moments before Mr Wolfensohn took the floor and did not return until the

speech was over.

A journalist who followed him out spotted him on the first floor of the hotel having his shoes shined. Mayor Barry must have been aware of the embarrassment that lay in wait for him. For Mr Wolfensohn's remarks were surely not unconnected to the fact that one night three weeks ago he and his wife entered their palatial Washington home to discover



### Netanyahu says Palestinian land is empty

Jerusalem – standing on a hill-top in Ariel, one of the largest Israeli settlements in the West Bank, Benjamin Netanyahu this week declared the land he saw before him "empty" and ripe for the construction of more homes for settlers.

Even the US State Department, not known for its critical attitude to Israeli policies, objected to the Israeli Prime Minister's remarks, saying his call "for an expansion of settlements is certainly not useful and not constructive".

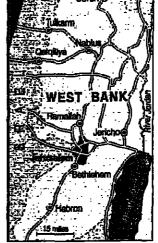
Mr Netanyahu first attracted public attention as a young Israeli diplomat in the US in 1983 when he published an article in the Wall Street Journal arguing that Palestinians were not at the centre of the Mid-

On his first visit as Prime Minister to the West Bank, where 140,000 Jewish settlers live in the midst of 1.5 million Palestinians, the Israeli leader showed that he still believes that Palestinian sensitivities can be disregarded.

Why shouldn't the settlements here be developed?" Mr Netanyahu asked innocently. "Is anyone stopping the development of the Arab villages nearby? Am I pre-venting this? Am I choking them?" To Palestinians the answers to such questions are obvious. Atallah Amira, 36, was shot dead by Israeli troops this month during a protest 15 miles south of Ariel. His last act was to wave documents as evidence of his claim to own grazing land, which bulldozers were clearing to expand an ultra-Or-thodox Jewish settlement at Kiryat Sefer. A UN study shows that average per capita income on the West Bank has fallen by 27 per cent in four years because of Israeli clo-

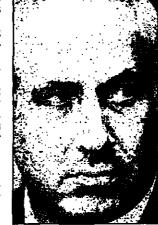
In theory, no new settle-ments are being built in addi-tion to the 144 already constructed. But Khalil Toufakji, a Palėstinian cartographer, says: "The Israelis say

Settlements still threaten peace process, Patrick Cockburn reports



neighbourhood, growth, but when you go there it is a new settlement." Under the Labour government, which froze new construction, the number of settlers grew by 39 per cent. With the new government actively favouring settlement of the West Bank the numbers may double to

300,000 in the next four years. For the moment construc-



tion activity is greatest in part of the West Bank west of he city of Ramallah. Mr Toufckji says that by building on he Green Line, the old 1967 border of the West Bank, Israel wants to obliterate its political significance by creating an Israeli majority in the area.

A conscious effort is a so being made to settle ultra-Orthodox Jews, who are not Zionists, but are seriously short of housing because of their large families Mr Netanyahu often defends himself by saying that the last Labour government increased the number of settlers by 50 per cent. The figure is exaggerated and the expinsion was mainly focussed on he greater Jerusalem area.

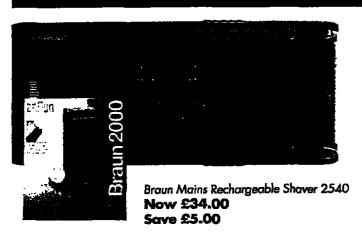
Prof Baruch Kimmerling, a political scientist at Hebrew University, says that Labour made a disastrous mistake by failing to remove most of the settlements, thereby ensuring that two peoples who detest each other are crowded together, fighting for the same small space.

Most settlers are on the West Bank because they religious nationalists who believe is Eretz Israel, the land given by God to the Jews. Professor Kimmerling argues that by allowing them to remain, he Oslo agreement ensured maximum friction between hostile populations. He says Palestinians know settlements
"are placed there to
inherit the land from the non-

Their inhabitants see Hebron, Nablus and other West Bank cities as Jewish and hope that "the miracle of 1948," which - in their language cleansed the land of the Arabs will return in one form or an-

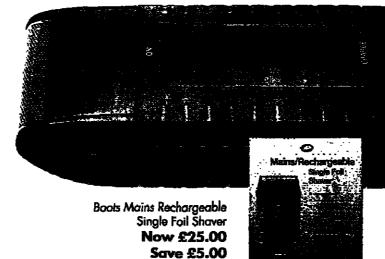
Mr Netanyahu may not favour ethnic cleansing, but his belief that the West Bank is

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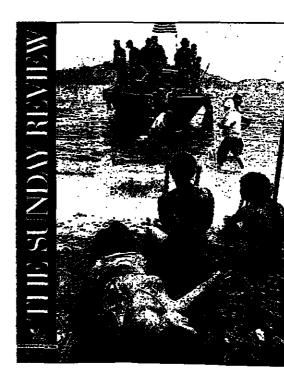
### Air drops plan for Zaire

Naples (Reuter) — United "We are not planning a mil- to get an aid programme going. States Defence Secretary itary operation," said Mr Perry. Mr Perry also said: "If they move William Perry yesterday ruled out sending a US combat force to Zaire but said Washington was ready to take part in a Canadian proposal to parachute food to thousands of Rwandan refugees in Zaire if necessary.

He said that he expected final plans to be made in the next day or two for a possible Canadian-led multinational force in central Africa that could airdrop aid to refugees or oversee food distribution on the ground. Bowing to Canadian pressure

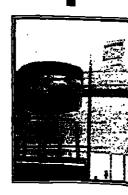
forward with the air-drop operation, we would certainly be in there as a full participant in it."

Relief experts estimate that several hundred thousand Rwandans remain displaced in Zaire and could face hunger and disease if they are not helped.



Philip Jones Griffiths's pictures of the world's troublespots have inspired generations of photographers, yet he's never quite become a household name. Murray Sayle tells the curious tale of the Welsh Don McCullin

With over two million people now working from home, the distinction between domestic and office environments is blurring. In the first part of a new series on the Future Home, we explain how you can prepare for tomorrow's world today



If Labour wins the next election, Jack Cunningham will be in charge of the arts. Yet his enthusiasm for the job, and for the arts, is in some doubt. Marianne Macdonald asks him some awkward questions

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# Disney stands by Dalai Lama

**David Usborne** 

In a collision between Mickey Mouse and Mao, the Walt Disney Company is refusing to yield to pressure from Peking to abandon production of a new film about the exiled spiritual leader of Tibet, the Dalai Lama.

The entertainment behemoth has swept aside specula-tion that it might ditch the film, being shot in Morocco by the director Martin Scorcese. because of hints of retribution from the authorities in Peking. We have an agreement to

distribute the film and we will honour it," a spokesman for the company said in a one-line statement. "We won't be dissuaded," another Disney official

was quoted as saying yesterday. Chinese officials are believed to have privately voiced displeasure to Disney executives about the film, to be called Kun-dun, even though the company has plans only for its release in the United States late next year through one of its distribution subsidiaries, Touchstone.

China is trying to tighten its control over Tibet, which it annexed in 1951. The Dalai Lama, who fled Tibet in 1959, is accused of trying to stir up a revolt in the region from his base in exile.

The affair highlights the problems that entertainment giants such as Disney are beginning to face as their ambitions to sell their products globally clash with cultural and doctrinal concerns in countries such as China.

It evokes the row that erupted in 1994 when Rupert Murdoch removed the BBC's World Service Television from his with Peking.

Disney's contrary decision has brought it praise in the Unit-ed States. "The Walt Disney Company demonstrated that it would not accept censorship as the price of doing business in China or anywhere else," the New York Times opined approvingly yesterday. "That is a welcome stand".

The cost to Disney could be high. The company has made public its ambition to tap the potential of China's huge market which includes no few than 300 million children - to sell not only its films but all of their related spin-off products, from toys to home videos. Its recent his The Lion King played to packed cinemas all across China.

The company recently has also been expressing an interest in opening a Disney theme park in Asia, with China mentioned as the possible host country. Michael Ovitz, Disney's Chief Executive, recently visited China to discuss expansion plans in the country. "China could turn into an enormous market for them in the future. commented David Londoner, an analyst with Wertheim Schroder in New York. "Do

they want to jeapordise that?" But Disuey would be reluctant to shelve Kundun, in part because it is the first project undertaken by Mr Scorcese since his recent move to the studio.

Considered by some American conservatives to have a responsibility to uphold the "family-values" image symbol-ised by Mickey Mouse and Bambi, Disney has become practised at managing controversy. It weathered fierce protests last year with the release by another of its subsidiaries. Mi-North Asia satellite after Chiramax, of the films Priest, about
na objected to some of its content. Mr. Murdoch agreed to with homosexuality, and Kids,
eject the BBC rather than tilk depicting drug-taking and York adolescents.



Chima's Panchem Lama hands the ceremonial hada to Zhao Puchu, chairman of the Chinese Buddhist Association in Peking last Friday Photograph; AP

### China offers the world a sight of its approved Panchem

The Tibetan religious ritual to mark the first anniversary of the enthronement of a seven-year-old boy as the Panchen Lama was held last week - in secret and in Peking. Such is the opposition in Tibet to China's selection of Gyantsen Norpo as the second most important Tibetan religious figure that even the announcement of the ceremony was not made until yesterday. The Chinese newspapers yesterday pub-

lished a picture of the ritinal, held last Friday in the Temple of Harmony and Peace in the capital. Since the enthronement a Panchom is held in custody Gyantsen has spent much of his time in the Daiai Lama in Tibet, the Chinese have four-day visit to India beginning today.

Peking under the supervision of the Chi-

In Tibet, most people still silently recognise another seven-year-old boy, Gedhun Choekyo Nyima, as the true reincarnation of the Panchen Lama. Gedbun was named in May 1995 by the Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, but he was immediately rejected by the Chinese gov-

The official reports of Friday's ceremo-tay described how monks pounded drums, rang bells and chanted Buddhist scriptures. The photograph showed Gyantsen, dressed in lama robes and hat, looking serious and surrounded by older monks.

failed over the last year to convince Tibetans to support their choice of Gyantsen. There have been reports that one of the reasons the boy is living under guard in Peking is because the Chinese government fears for his safety.

Meanwhile the boy chosen by the Dalai Lama as the new Panchen Lama is also living in the custody of the Chinese, although Peking maintains this is for his own protection. Nothing has been seen of Gedhun and his parents since July 1995, and the Dalai Lama has called him the world's "youngest political prisoner".

Protests about Tibet, including the Panchen Lama conflict, will greet the Chinese president, Jiang Zemin, on his

### South Africa snubs Taiwan

Teresa Poole

South Africa yesterday dealt Taiwan its worst diplomatic blow for years by announcing that it has dropped recognition of the island state in favour of the Peo-ple's Republic. The

announcement was made by President Nelson Mandela, who said the process would be com-pleted within a year.

For Peking, the decision marks a diplomatic triumph, Although a switch was inevitable, it has come much sooner than expected. Three months ago, Mr Mandela said it would be "immoral" for South Africa to drop Taipei. Although historically it was the apartheid regime which formed close links with Taiwan, parallels had been drawn between the political reform process in South Africa and Taiwan's embrace of democracy with presidential elections in March this year.

South Africa was, until yesterday, the most significant country to recognise Taiwan. The majority of those remaining are in Central America and Africa, and Taipei may now worry that other African countries will follow Pretoria's lead.

Mr Mandela yesterday said that continuing relations with Taiwan were "inconsistent with South Africa's role in interna-tional affairs". He expressed South Africa's great apprecia-tion for Taiwan's assistance in the transition to democracy in South Africa. He hoped cordial relations would continue, and that South Africa would be able to conduct "constructive relations" with Taiwan.

Taiwan said recently that it would no longer "buy" diplomatic recognition, a reference to its past practice of pouring funds into countries in return for diplomatic ties. In practice, Taiwan's major trading partners, all of whom recognise Peking, have established unofficial representative offices in Taipei which act as quasi-embassies. Peking refuses to have diplomatic relations with any country that formally recognises Taiwan,

#### significant shorts

#### Norwegian resigns

The former Middle East mediator Terje Roed-Larsen quit the Norwegian government yesterday amid a scandal over alleged irregularities in a share-option

deal 10 years ago. Roed-Larsen, Minister for National Planning in the Labour minority government, caved in after a twoweek media campaign accusing him of not telling the whole story about a 600,000 crown (£60,000) share-option profit he made while a marketing director at the fisheries company Fideco AS Reuter - Osio

#### finance deals with Nazis

Switzerland's upper house of demilitarised zone that sepaparliament voted for a sweeping study of Swiss fi-nancial dealings with Nazi Germany and the fate of Jewish wealth stashed in Swiss banks during the Holocaust. The 37-0 vote was almost the final burdle for a bill to create a panel of independent historians and experts after unanimous backing from parliament's lower chamber and the cabinet. Reuter - Berne

#### **Bhutto's** husband may go free

Pakistani authorities have withdrawn an order under which the ousted prime minister Benazir Bhutto's husband, Asif Ali Zardari, has been detained for three weeks, a court was to.d. But it was not immediately known whether Mr Zardari, arrested on 5 November when President Farooq Lephari dismissed Ms Biatto's government, had been released or re-arrested under a fresh order.

#### Patten defends intermediary introduction of subversion bill

Chris Patten, the governor of Hong Kong, defended his government's move to introduce a new antisubversion bill before the colony's return to China and criticised Peking for refusing dialogue on the issue.

"Very reluctantly, we decided that we would need to go shead to honour our commitment to Hong Kong." said Mr Patten, who is in Tokyo on a six-day visit.

Reuter – Tokyo

#### Kim Jong II visits Korean Swiss to study border region North Korea's leader Kim

Jong II has visited the sensitive border village of Panmunjom inside the rates the two Koreas, the South's media reported. South Korean intelligence officials said the visit was Kim's first to the area and

indicates he is in firm con-trol of the country following the death of his father, President Kim Il Sung, more than two years ago.

#### Denture thief remains at large

A mystery surrounding the their of several sets of false teeth from a Bratislava old people's home was partially solved when a shoe box containing the dentures was found, the TASR news agency reported on Wednesday. But the thief, who reportedly stole the teeth from their overnight glasses, remained at large. Once the box was found, the owners of the teeth were ... grinning from ear to ear, though only after trying on

several sets to identify which

were theirs.

Reuter - Brotislava

### Russian fears over Chechen warrior's play for power

Phil Reeves Moscow

Even more moderate Russians find it hard to bring themselves to utter his name without a curl of the lip. He is, in the eyes of most of those north of the Caucacus, a seasoned terrorist who brought about some of Moscow's deepest humiliations during the Chechen war. Yet if he gets his way, he may also be the republic's next president.

According to the Itar-Tass news agency, Shamil Basayev. hijacker, mass hostage-taker, and celebrated warrior-com-mander, is one of those running for the leadership of a new gov-ernment in Chechnya, where election campaigning officially began yesterday.
If he wins, the Kremlin will

have to work with a leader who was not only long regarded as one of Russia's most wanted men, but who is also an uncom-promising advocate of complete independence for the republic - an issue over which the Russians and the Chechens still disagree. The 31-year-old commander

has reportedly pledged to campaign against crime, saying that he wanted to prove "his ability not only to fight but to build a peaceful life". It is a platform that Russians will regard with irony, given their knowledge of his curriculum vitae.

In November 1991, he was part of a group that sought to publicise the Chechen cause by hijacking a Russian plane, forc-ing it to land in Turkey, and ne-gotiating a safe passage back to the republic. But his most audacious head-

line-grabbing venture was to lead a band of Chechen fighters in a raid on the southern Russian town of Budyonnovsk, where they seized more than 1,000 hostages and holed up in a hospital. Again, he managed to force his opponents - in this
case, the Russian Prime Minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin - to agree to allow him and his men

to return home. The episode, in which more than 100 people died, is still the source of profound resentment in Russia.

So what are his chances of victory? He has the clear advantage of being a pin-up hero in Chechnya who has acquired the reputation of a latter-day Robin Hood. But he faces some formidable opponents. Chief amongst these is Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev, who replaced the separatists' president, Dzhok-har Dudayev, after he was killed in a rocket attack in April. He is not a fighter but a politician who has proved he can work with the Russians. At 44, he has the advantage of age - a factor



that matters in an Islamic society where elders traditionally make the decisions.

A challenge may also come from the Chechen chief-ofstaff, Aslan Maskhadov, who is widely rumoured to be contemplating a run at the post. A popular figure, whose comparatively moderate politics may appeal to the pro-Moscowminded minority in Chechnya he has been the front man in the peace negotiations.

It is too early to predict a winner, but both are formidable oppopents. What is clear is that the mere candidacy of Mr Basayev has further soured the mood in Moscow over the distastrous 21month Chechen war.



### Dame Joan Hammond

An operatic soprano who was also a champion golfer, a firstclass swimmer and a keen yachiswoman; a classical singer who was awarded a Golden Disc for selling over a million copies of her recording of an aria from Puccini's Gianni Schiechi: Joan Hammond transcended all the barriers normally raised between popular and classical music, between art and sport.

As with so many other stage performers of her generation, her career was interrupted by the Second World War, it was also curtailed by ill-health. Nevertheless, for more than a quarter of a century she enjoyed a successful, varied career in the concert-halls and opera houses of Europe, America and Australia. Her voice, bright in colour, vibrant and full-toned, is caught with great fidelity in her many recordings, which give a vivid impression of her Tosca, Butterfly, Aida and many other of her best roles.

Joan Hammond was born in 1912 in Christchurch, New Zealand. Her parents were British and, a few months after her birth, the family moved to Australia and settled in Sydney. where she was educated at the Presbyterian Ladies College. At school sport and music divided her time; golfing, swimming and sailing were as keenly pursued as singing and violin playing. On entering the New South Wales Conservatorium of Music, she took violin as her first subject and voice as the second, but a bicycle accident at the age of 12 had left one arm permanently shorter than the other, precluding a career as a violinist. She opted to become a singer, while continuing to play golf; and at the age of 17 won the Junior State Championship.

In 1932 the Williamson Imperial Grand Opera Company gave a season in Sydney, also touring to Melbourne and other cities. The principals were Italian, but minor roles and chorus were recruited locally. Hammond secured an engagement and appeared in Aida, Pagliacci, Madam Butterfly, Rigoletto, in which she made her official début as Giovanna, duenna to Gilda (who was sung by Lina Pagliughe), and Faust, in which she sang Siebel. She got leave of absence to play in the Ladies' State Golf Championship. which she won. For the next three years she sang wherever she could, in cinemas, department stores and music clubs. She became golf correspondent to the Sydney Telegraph, was runner up in the 1933 Australian Open Championship and in 1935 played for the

Derrick Puffett comes forward

to be recognised not merely for

what he contributed to the de-

velopments of an influential

journal - as editor of Music

Analysis from 1987 to 1995 - but

for the cumulative influence on

content and style which results

from such hands-on editing.

Such influence goes much fur-

ther than the closed world of the

is a comparatively new discipline

which certainly formed no part

of the teaching syllabus of Oxford, where Puffett studied at

New College and obtained first

class honours. His musical in-

terests and loves were then and

remained throughout his life the

music of the late 19th and 20th

centuries, particularly Wagner,

Bruckner, Mahler, Strauss, El-

gar, Tchaikovsky, Schoenberg, Berg, Debussy, Ravel, Schreck-

The formal analysis of music

specialised periodical.



A vibrant voice, bright in colour, full-toned: Hammond enterta the troops in September 1939 Photograph Hulton Getty

**Derrick Puffett** 

LGU team against Great

That year another season of Grand Opera was presented in Sydney by Sir Benjamin Fuller. The singer engaged as Venus in Tannhäuser dropped out and short notice. She also sang Helmwige in Die Walküre. A fund was set up in order to raise money to send her to Europe

er and Zemlinsky. His doctoral

dissertation was on the work of

the Swiss Lieder composer Oth-

mar Schoeck. While working as

a college tutor in Oxford he

wrote large numbers of reviews

and articles for musical journals.

only after 1984, when he was an-

pointed to a university lecture-

ship at Cambridge and as

Director of Studies at St John's

College, that he found the in-

spiration and time to realise

projects of his own. In his years

in the Cambridge faculty his

main concern was to develon a

coherent and comprehensive

approach to the study of ana-

lytic method and its application

to a wide repertoire. From this

time on he produced a series of

substantial studies on works of

Schoenberg, Berg, Tippett,

Stravinsky and Debussy as well

as incomplete work on Wagn-

But it seems to have been

sailed on 6 April 1936 in the Norwegian freighter Dagfred, arriving in Genoa some six weeks later. It had been arranged that she should study in Vienna; after a year she came to London Hammond took over the role at and studied with the Italian tenor Dino Borgioli. Returning to Vienna she was

engaged at the Volksoper and made her debut in 1938 as for further vocal training. After Nedda in Pagliacci: she also sang

er and Bruckner. He was a de-

voted and demanding teacher.

often dissatisfied with his own

and his students' work, hard but

fair. In fact he was just the cal-

ibre of teacher whose presence

alone justifies the currently dis-

puted special conditions ac-

corded the ancient universities.

to discern a tension between the

intellectual rigour and method-

ological clurity demanded by the

discipline of formal analysis

plex perceptions emanating

from the actual experience of

hearing (and loving) the music.

The tension is exacerbated by the fact that the proliferating

and entwining nature of the mu-sic he preferred is of itself not

obviously suitable for formal in-

vestigation. I believe that we will

come to see that a major con-

tribution of both Puffett's edi-

burgh, 76: General Sir Robert Ross,

former Commandant General, Royal Marines, 57: Sir Brian Smed-

ley, High Court judge, 62: Dr James

Smith, former chairman, Eastern

Electricity, 69; Mr Randolph Stow,

novelist and poet, 61; Mr Saxon Tate,

tormer chairman. London Futures

and Options Exchange, 65; Mr Ray-

mond Whitney MP. 66.

and the higher and more com-

In all his work it is possible

a final concert in Sydney, she

the title-role of Martha and Constanze in Die Entführung aus dem Serail. During the autumn she gave a London recital at the Acolian Hall and sang in Messiah under Sir Thomas Beecham at Queen's Hall. Back in Vienna early in 1939 she graduated to the State Opera, where she sang Mimi in La Bohème and Violetta in La Traviata, while preparing Elisabeth in Tarrhauser and Donna Elvira in Don Giovanni. She was also contracted to sing at Aussig, a town 50 miles from Prague, as Micaela in Carmen, Minni, the title-role of Mignon and Amelia in Simon Boccanegra.

Her operatic career was now well and truly launched, but as the political situation grew worse it became obvious that she could not remain in Vienna. She returned to London in August for a Promenade concert, and remained there after war was declared, singing for the troops and for the BBC. In January 1940 she was asked to sing Mimi and Tosca at La Scala, as well as other roles in Barcelona and Madrid. With great diffi-culty she got to Milan and started rehearsals, but Italy was about to enter the war on the German side and she had to return to London. As consolation. she sang Pamina in The Mazic Flute - her first experience of opera in English - in Dublin.

For the next two years Hammond's career was confined to the concert platform and the recording studio. Her first recording was of the Bach-Goupod Ave Muria and Mendelssohn's "On Wings of Song". A stream of operatic arias followed and in September 1941 she recorded "O My Beloved Father" from Gianni Schiechi. which would eventually win the Golden Disc. She toured with Ensa and gave 30 concerts in Wales. Early in 1942 the Carl Rosa resumed its activities and she joined the company, making her début in Glasgow as Butterfly. Later she sang Violetta, Margucrite in Faust, Leonora in Il Trovatore, Mimi and Tosca on tour, as well as the Marschallin in concert performances of Der Rosenkavalier.

After the war she toured Germany with the Sadler's Wells company as Butterfly, then in 1946 returned to Australia for a four-month concert tour, during which she suffered from vocal problems which entailed further study on her return to London. In spring 1947 she went back to Vienna to sing Tosca, Violetta and Mimi. Later in the year she toured South Africa. She made her Covent Garden début in 1948 as

torial and creative work lies in

his struggle to push analytic

method to cope with the vague

and intractable in music. Crude-

ly said, it will not do merely to

'appreciate" music in words,

nor to systematise it: the real

problem is to combine the two

approaches. This is hard to

achieve and it is here that

of severe muscular dystrophy

which confined him to a chair

all his life and made much of

what musicians feed on, per-

forming and concert- and opera-

going, well nigh impossible. He

disliked any mention of his dis-

ability and asked for no special

consideration nor gave himself

any. He was forced to give up

his editorial work and teaching

positions by the wasting nature

of his illness. Typically he saw

this as a last opportunity to do

bers, Adam and the Grand Tour".

Leicester University: Robert Hinde, "Violence and War", 5pm.

National Portrait Gallery: Valerie

Doulton, "William Blake", 1.10pm.

RIBA Architecture Centre (Mile

Lecture), London W1: Michael Cas-

Puffett suffered from a form

Puffett shows the way.

Leonora (Il Trovatore) and sang there until 1951 as Fidelio, Aida and Butterfly. In 1949 she toured the United States, appearing at the New York City Centre as Butterfly, Aida and Tosca. She sang Elisabeth de Valois in Don Carlos at Sadler's Wells in 1951. The decade that followed

was a particularly busy period

for Hammond. She toured the British Isles, Scandinavia, East and Central Africa, the Soviet Union, India, the Far East, Canada, the US and Australia. Operatic performances included Tatyana in Eugene Onegin and Fevronia in Rimsky-Korsakov's Invisible City of Kitesh (in Russian) at Barcelona; Aida and Tatyana (also in Russian) in Leningrad and Moscow; Rusalka in the first British staging of Dvorák's opera at Sadler's Wells (during the last of the London Particulars) and Desdemona in Otello, Tosca and Salome for the Elizabethan Theatre Trust in Australia. She also sang in many operas for the BBC, including La forza del des-tino, Turandot, Thais, William Tell, Alan Bush's Wat Tyler, Denis Aplver's Yerma and Rimsky-Korsakov's Mlada.

In November 1965 Hammond suffered a coronary attack and was forced to retire. On 27 August 1969 she was awarded her Golden Disc for "O My Beloved Pather". Puccini had always suited her voice particularly well: Butterfly and Tosca were her most popular roles and she sang them more often than all the others put together. Verdi was another of her favourite composers and Aida and the Trovatore Leonora ranked among her greatest achievements. Finest of all, per-haps, was the Verdi Requiem, which she sang countless times under conductors such as Victor de Sabata and John Barbirolli. In 1970 she published an autobiography, A Voice, a Life and in 1974 was appointed DBE.

In February 1983 her golfing trophies, the souvenirs of her singing career and all her possessions were burnt in a bush fire that completely destroyed her home in Australia. Among music lovers who gave replacements for her lost treasures was a prisoner in Parkhurst, where she had sung in 1964, who sent her a copy of the parchment scroll commemorating her visit.

Joan Hood Hammond, soprano: born Christchurch, New Zealand 24 May 1912; OBE 1953, CBE 1963, DBE 1974; CMG 1972; died Bowral, New South Wales



his own research and writing. As a scholar he improved up to the end; the depth and originality of his writing strengthened as his

Alexander Goehr

Derrick Puffett, musicologist: born Oxford 30 November 1946; married 1989 Kathryn Bailey; died Cambridge 14 November



Sense of the absurd: Bentine as the Statue of Liberty

### **Michael Bentine**

Michael Bentine, a many-sided, ever-exuberant, half-Peruvian, Watford-born, Eton-educated founder-member of the Goons, was a delightful man whose comedy - although replete with funny lines - was strongly influenced by his gods, the great silent comedians. "I'm always sparked off," he told the journalist David Nathan, "by a visual idea which I have to find words for.' I first met Bentine in the

1950s, when I was cast as Professor Moriarty to his Doctor Watson in a television sketch. Bentine also co-wrote the sketch, which began, memorably, with Watson discovered in a Victorian setting, informing the audience that he and Sherlock Holmes shared chambers in Baker Street. At this point, Holmes (Michael Gough) entered, took some bread from the oven and sold it to a man outside the door. Bentine then said to the audience: "Correction - we share a

baker's in Chamber Street!" Bentine's unique sense of humour helped him through 74 which he suffered the deaths of his three elder children. With the support of his adored and adoring wife Clementina, he also dealt with his last years of prostate cancer and other ailments in an admirably positive way. He had had his first trauma as a small boy; an inept tonsillectomy (during which half of his naso-pharynx was also removed) left him with a serious stammer for a decade. He was 16 before a speech specialist

helped him to speak normally. During the Second World War, he tried to enlist in the Royal Air Force, but was refused because of his non-British father. While waiting for the RAF to relent, he toured the West Country, playing drums and clowning in a small travelling circus, and acted in Pinero's Sweet Lavender and Shakespeare's The Taming of the Shrew, Twelfth Night. A Midsummer Night's Dream and The success was the innovative It's Merchant of Venice. After a performance as Lorenzo in the last, he was mistakenly arrested as an RAF deserter and dragged away, still in costume. He later wrote: "I was the only British serviceman to be arrested in doublet and hose for 400 years."

Bentine failed his eyesight test during flight training, and spent the rest of the war serving as an operational intelligence officer. After his demob, he and a friend, Tony Sherwood, formed a variety act called "Sherwood and Forrest", and did 216 shows at the Windmill Theatre in six weeks. When his partner left the act, Bentine created a surrealist solo spot, in which he shouted a jingoistic rallying cry while using the broken back of a kitchen chair in a dizzying variety of ways; it became an axe, a guillotine, a plough, a pneumatic drill, a saddle. prison bars, a flag, a ship's rudder, a comb, and many other objects. Between 1947 and 1950 he performed "The Chairback" over 800 times.

servicemen Spike Milligan. Harry Secombe and Peter Sellers, and in 1951 the four were ed to call it The Goon Show, but the BBC panjandrums feared such a title would confuse listeners, and called it Crazy People. Bentine played Professor Osric Pureheart, a mad scientist whose achievements included digging the Channel Tunnel, building the giant Brabagoon aircraft and discovering the East Pole. In 1952 Crazy People finally became The Goon Show, but the restless Bentine left the show five months later to create such imaginative children's puppet series as The Bumblies, in which three amiable ETs came to earth in a saucer powered by radioactive tea, and Potty Time, in which Dracula kept turning into a cricket bat.

Bentine's greatest television

absurd with his fellow ex-

a Square World (1960), which ran for four years, winning the Grand Prix de la Presse at the 1963 Montreux International Television Festival, and the Writers Guild Award that same year. Its best-remembered scquence was filmed in Westminster Reach, and showed the cast, dressed as Chinese warlords, firing polythene cannonballs at the Houses of Parliament from a junk. The scene ended with a realistic model of the Commons sinking, and was banned until after the 1964 general election. "Apparently, there is a BBC edict that you must show parity to the parties at election time," commented Bentine. "I would have imagined that, if you sank the Commons, you were showing parity to everybody.

On BBC TV's Golden Silents. Bentine presented such vintage comedians as Harry Langdon, Laurel and Hardy, and his idol, Buster Keaton. He took his one-man shows all over the world, co-wrote and starred in (1966) and Bachelor of Arts (1969), lectured at universities on the paranormal, wrote more than a dozen books, demonstrated techniques for developing the rivers of the Upper Amazon as food-producing areas, and helped with a taped comedy compilation offered free to hospital radio services. In a 1992 newspaper interview, Michael Bentine expressed wonder that anyone could ever be bored, adding: "One lifetime is nowhere near enough to do

all that there is to do." Dick Vosburgh Michael Bentin (Bentine), writer. actor and comedian: born Watford 26 January 1922; married 1941 Marie Barradell (onc

daughter deceased; marriage dis-

solved), 1949 Clementina Stuart

(one son, one daughter, and one

son and one daughter deceased);

died London 26 November 1996.

#### Births. **Marriages** & Deaths

DEATHS

PAIRCLOUGH: Lady, Margaret Ann. died suddenly at home on 26 November. Margaret was the most adored wife of John and wonderind mother of Simon, Jeremy and Sarah. The Inneral is being arranged by Juo Steel & Son. Chesil House. Winchester, 01962 844041 and will be held at St John's Church. Winchester, followed by a burind with family only in lowed by a burial with family only in attendance. Flowers from family only please. Donations, if desired, to the imperial Cancer Research Fund, c/o

STUBBS: Richard (Dick), peacefully. STUBBS: Richard (Dick), peacefully.
25 November, aged 87, Belowed his-band of loyce, adored Dad of Carv and Nico, devoted brother, grandad, father-in-law and friend. Funeral service on Tuesday 3 December. 11,15am at West Suffolk Crematori-mp Brus St Edmunds Suffolk From. um, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, Family flowers only please, donations if desired to Parkinson's Disease Society, 22 Upper Woharn Place, London WC1H 0RA.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, I Canada Square, Canada Wharf. London E14 5DL, telephoned to 0171-293 2011 (24-hour apparating machine 0171-293 2012) or phoned to 0171-293 2011 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2012) or faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements (notices, functions, Forthcoming macringes, Marringes) must be submitted in writing (or based) and are charged at £10 a line, VAT entra. They should be accompanied by a daytime telephone number.

Birthdays Mr Kriss Akabusi. Olympic athlete.

38; Professor Giovanni Aquilecchia. linguist. 73; Miss Fiona Armstrong. television presenter, 40; Sir Gordon Beveridge, president and Vice-Chancellor, Queen's University of Belfast, 63: Vice-Admiral Sir David Brown, naval consultant, 64; Mr Geoffrey Clarke, artist and sculptor, 72: Miss Cecilia Colledge, former champion skater, 76; Sir David Croom-Johnston, former Lord Jus-tice of Appeal, 82; Mr Alistair Darling MP. 43: Mr Frederick du Preez. rugby player, 61: Mr Terence Frishy, actor and playwright, 64; Miss Lucy Gutteridge, actress, 40: The Righ Rev Michael Hare Duke, former Bishop of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane, 71: Miss Hope Lange, actress, 65; Professor Claude Levi-Strauss, social anthropologist, 88: Lord Macdonald, Chief of the Name and Arms of Macdonald, 49; Mr Keith Miller, former cricketer, 77; General Sir David Mostyn, 68: Miss Dervia Murphy, author, 65; Mr Randy Newman, singer and song-writer, 53; Sir Idris Pearce, surveyor, 63; Professor Sir Lewis Robertson, industrialist and administrator, 74; Mr Stephen Roche, cyclist, 37: The Right Rev Patrick Rodger, Assistant Bishop, Edin-

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

ROYAL ENGAGENENTS
The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh altered a Service to mark the Porton Declaration, at Westminster, Abbee, Limbri SW. The Duke of Edinburgh. Service Fellow, presents the Royal Academic of Engineering MacRobert Award as Buckingham Palace, as barront and Toustee, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, attends a reception at the Hilbert Hobel. London W. a. Prevalent, the Engiled-Specialise Union of the Communicability presents the 1946 Duke of Edinburgh Engish Language South Awards and the ESU Engish Language Foundation and Chambard Buckingham of the ESU Language Commistion at Buckingham

the tombs", 1.15pm. Courtauld Institute, London WC2: Professor John Wilton-Ely, "A Holy See of Pleasurable Antiquity: Cham-

Palace, and as Patron, attende the London Federation of Chris for Young People Ved Senior Branc Finals at the Hillon Hotel, London W.I. The Princers Ruyal, President of the Patrons, Crime Concern, attends the "Violence in Schrook Semonar". Borman Castrol Headquarters, Swindon, Wideshire, opens a new Sports Hall, St. Francis, Schrook Fewsey, Witchmer as President, Serve the Children Fund, amouths a plaque to commenter set Epidantone Jobb as Founder of Save the Children Fund and Mariborough, Labrary, Marthorough, Williahmer, opens flats purchassed by Santon Housing Association from the Ministry of Delenot, Videouth, Williahmer, and Motoruch Limited, Eurosep.

sidy, "London and the Next Millenium", 5.30pm. Gresham College, Barnard's Inn Hall, London EC2: Professor Simon Lec, "Judging the Woolf Report", 5.30pm.

Anniversaries Births: William Blake, poet and painter, 1757; Nancy Mitford, nov-elist and biographer, 1904. Deaths: Matsuo Basho, Japanese poet, 1694; Institute of Economic Affairs, London SW1: Dr James Foreman-Peck. "On the Right Track? Restructuring Enid Mary Blyton, author, 1968, On this day: the Royal Society was the Railways", p.30pm. founded, 1660; Sinn Fein was founded in Dublin by Arthur Griffith, 1905. Dinners Today is the Feast Day of St Catherine Laboure. St James of the March, Stationers and Newspaper St Joseph Pignatelli, St Simeon Makers' Company

Lectures British Museum: Lucy Goodison, "Prehistoric Cretan Sun-Worship:

Metaphrastes and St Stephen the

Mr Roger Cork, Lord Mayor of London, the Sheriffs and Lord Bramall. Lord-Lieutenant of London, attended a Civic Dinner held yesterday evening by the Worshipful Company of Stationers and Newspaper

EC4. Maj-Gen David Pennefather, Commandant General Royal Marines, and Mr Vernon Sullivan, Under Warden, were the speakers. Business Park, Swindon, Wittshire; and in President, the Princers Royal Drug for Carters, attends the Official Lunch of Kenner Carter Centre. Old Ford Court, Pewer, Wittshire, Princers Michael of Kent attends the Jenura Street Association Christians, Party, Lundon Wi, in aid of the Virtery Clob Christians Toy Campaign.

Makers at Stationers' Hall, London

Changing of the Cuard

#### Banning of film under blasphemy law upheld Wingrove v United Kingdom; European Court of Human LAW REPORT

Rights: 25 November 1996

The banning of a film on grounds of blasphemy did not constitute an infringement of the right of freedom of speech guaranteed by article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights. The interference was prescribed by law, pursued The applicant appealed to a legitimate aim and could be considered necessary in a

The European Court of Human Rights rejected, by seven BBFC's decision. votes to two, a complaint by Nige! Wingrove that the refusal of the British Board of Film Classification, on 18 September 1989, to grant a certificate permitting the sale, hire or supply to the public of his film Visions of Ecstasy was a violation of

article 10. The 18-minute video film concerned the life and writings of St Teresa of Avila, a 16thcentury Carmelite nun who experienced powerful ecstatic isions of Jesus Christ. The BBFC described the film as depicting the erotic fantasies of a character referred to as St Teresa, involving both the crucified figure of Christ and the "Psyche of St Teresa", a female

democratic society.

sacred subject and that, accordingly, a reasonable jury properly directed would find it infringed the criminal law of blasphemy.

the Video Appeals Committee. But the appeal panel by three votes to two upheld the Article 10 provides:

 Everyone has the right to freedom of expression. This right shall include freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by public authority and regardless of frontiers. 2. The exercise of these freedoms,

since it carries with it duties and responsibilities, may be subject to such formalities, conditions, restrictions or penalties as are prescribed by law an are necessary in a democratic society, in the interests of national se-curity, territorial integrity or public safety, for the prevention of disor-der or crime, for the protection of health or morals, for the protection of the reputation or rights of others, for preventing the disclosure of infor preventing the disclosure of in-formation received in confidence, or for maintaining the authority and impartiality of the judiciary.

role. The BBFC said the work The European Court of Human would give rise to outrage at the Rights said it was not disputunacceptable treatment of a ed that the BBFC's decision constituted an interference with the applicant's right to freedom of expression. The question was whether it was

justified under article 10,2.

There was no general un-

certainty or disagreement as to the definition of what constituted blasphemy. The applicant could, with appropriate legal advice, reasonably have foreseen that certain scenes in the film could fall within the scope of the offence of blasphemy. It could not be said that the blasphemy law did not afford adequate protection against arbitrary interference. The impugned restriction was

therefore "prescribed by law", The aim of the interference (the protection of Christians against serious offence in their beliefs) was fully consonant with the aims of article 9 (freedom of thought, conscience and religion). The fact that the English blasphemy law only protected the Christian faith and did not treat all religions on an equal footing did not detract from the legitimacy of the

aim pursued. The interference was also necessary. Blasphemy legislation was still in force in various European countries and, although its application had become increasingly rare, it could not be said to be unnecessary in a democratic society.

Under article 10.2 there was little scope for restrictions on political speech or on questions of public interest, but a wider margin of appreciation was generally available to states in relation to matters liable to offend intimate personal convictions in the sphere of morals or religion. National authorities were better placed than the international judge to define these requirements and rule on the necessity of a restriction.

The reasons given to justify the interference could be considered both relevant and sufficient and the interference could not be said to be arbitrary Or excessive.

The national authorities margin of appreciation had not been overstepped and there had accordingly been no violation of article 10.

Paul Magrath, Barrister

### A government's Holy Grail: the invisible tax

few yesterday. Gordon Brown claims to have his own snares all set. And Liberal Democrat policy documents have been peppered for years with tall tales of creatures already captured and strung up. Everyone is desperately searching for that mythical beast: a popular tax.

From wigs to numerous windows, gas-guzzlers to mobile phones, politicians have searched for things to tax which suggest extravagance in the abstract, but are actually used widely enough to make taxing them worth-while. The French minister Colbert's maxim about the secret of taxation being to get the maximum possible number of goose feathers with the minimum amount of hissing holds good. But, though this has always been hard, it is perhaps particularly so in modern Britain. For 17 years we've been educated to hate taxes - not just personally, but generally, too, as initiativesapping, job-destroying, socially dangerous statist drugs.

Yet, throughout those years, it has also been clear that destroying the services those taxes fund is not an option either. For all our antipathy to the Inland Revenue, we still love our accumulated public services. Cut our hospitals and we all bleed. Undermine our schools and we all get stroppy. Politicians who are tempted to tamper

fter centuries, the hunt is still with the big blocks of public spending on. Ken Clarke tried stalking a do so at their peril – as the Conservatives well know. After decades of taxcutting, state-cutting rhetoric, the public sector still takes up about the same share of the national cake today as it did in 1979.

So what is to be done? The most obvious and well-tried trick has been to switch the tax to something new and hard for voters to spot in everyday life. Geoffrey Howe managed it by raising VAT in 1979. A tax hike hidden amidst price increases in the shops caused a Commons storm but slipped quietly out of taxpayers' minds. The next tax success was the use of asset sales to fund temporary real tax cuts. The trouble was, you can't sell off the power stations, gas pipes, telephones and water meters more than once. Eventually, the saleroom was more or less empty.

Pushing taxes back up again to fill the gap was exactly what destroyed the Government's popularity after the 1992 election. No wonder Kenneth Clarke is struggling now to find a sustainable way to bring them back down again. And it is no surprise, too, that Labour are not opposing Mr Clarke's Budget tax cuts, or promising income tax hikes for ordinary voters themselves.

However, neither party has plansible plans to cut the overall tax burden. Ken Clarke did not - despite yesterday's headlines - deliver a real tax-



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cutting Budget this week. Yes, net taxes will go down by a tiny amount. But the effects are marginal. All he has done in fact is redistribute the tax burden again. And this time he has a couple of new tricks - variations on the old tax-hiding theme - to help him get away with it.

Obscured on Tuesday, revealed in more detail yesterday, Mr Clarke's way of balancing the books is to push up the taxes levied by local authorities, and to postpone other tax rises until after the election. Councils across the country are being told to spend more on schools. But their grants from central

government are being cut and they will have to raise the cash from local Council Tax payers instead. Clearly the Conservatives hope the public will be ill-informed enough to blame their local politicians - mostly Labour - for the squeeze on local services and the rising Council Tax bill. Raise taxes, and pass the blame.

This kind of dodging is very damaging to the structure and legitimacy of local democracy. By burdening local government with the most unpopular kind of lump-sum taxes, then forcing them to increase them, national politicians are turning their local counter-

strongly suspect, it won't work anyway. The last time pass-the-blame was played, when the poll tax was introduced, blame for the new tax stubbornly refused to shift from Westminster.

The likelier tactic is the old one find unpopular things and people, and tax them. Today, any democratic Western party is likely to turn eventually to taxing pollution and traffic, just as the Conservatives have done and Labour would do. The war on "alcopop" drinks is just the latest in a long line. But there is a more substantial hate-figure, discovered by the press and quickly exploited by Labour - the "fat cats" and the privatised semi-monopolies of the utilities. Here, it is clear, a straightforward political race is now on to tax them. Gordon Brown was there first, but his proposals on share options and tax loopholes have been largely adopted by the Government. Now, as we report today, the Conservatives are mimicking aspects of Labour's promised attack on the utilities.

Well, that's competitive politics – just the sort of auction that has always been a part of representative democracy. It will, inevitably, go too far, and the denuded geese - or starveling felines, depending on your metaphor - will find life unexpectedly tough for a while, no matter who is in power. And

parts into figures of loathing and resent- then, inevitably, the politicians will ment. They may not much care. But, we have to search for a new line of tax attack. And perhaps by then, the growing evidence of public disquiet about disparities in pay will provoke a new fashion ... for income tax.

#### Walkers for freedom

here was an old socialist cartoon which had a working-class walker confronting a mounted landowner. The owner orders the proletarian off his land. Why? he demands. Because I own it. Why do you own it? Because my family has owned it for hundreds of years. How did they get it? They fought for it. Right, says the sturdy trespasser, rolling up his sleeves, then I'll fight you

This was not, quite, the approach of the Ramblers' Association in its struggle with the Country Landowners' Association, which held a conference yesterday. But they have been aggressive. In fact, the ramblers' huge success in opening up Britain is unstoppable and, more to the point, benign. In a crowded, urban island, with many competing demands for use of the countryside, few activities are as quiet and harmless as simply walking through it.

> **Scots traditions** made in England

"Independence" tartan for English Scots and other New Scots

"McAnglos reveal designs on independence", 18 November) states that there is an irony to the

existence of this new plaid. But there is an irony to many Scottish

Rawlinson, invented the so-called

Highland regiments formed by the British government which revived it. Apart from the fake tradition of the kilt. Scotland does not have one

national dress but two. These are

the long Irish shirt tunic and cloak

in the Highlands and the trews in

the Lowlands. Scottish national

identity is in many ways a recent

phenomenon. For centuries the Saxon lowland Scots considered the

Highlanders as being Irish, as their

culture had more in common with

the invention of manufacturers to

drum up business. Traditionally

there were only regional designs.

Is it not ironic also that the Welsh

national dress is the same as that of

druidic rituals of the Eisteddfod are

an 18th-century invention. JAMES FRASER WILD

Lymington, Hampshire

How students

pay their way

The fact that over half of all

PSI study was not, however,

performance but to examine

Our work has shown that

this change on academic

Sir: Dr Anna Maidens is right to ask whether students can earn a

wage at college without damaging their studies (letter, 25 November).

students now regularly work up to

10 hours a week during term-time

suggests a major change in students' sources of income. The

designed to assess the impact of

student income and expenditure.

younger students' incomes rose by

seven years (1989-1996) and we recognise that this is not a sizeable

increase. However, it is clear that

experience financial hardship, in particular lone parents and single

mature students. To suggest that

implying that "everything is rosy"

concern should be directed towards

certain groups of students do

these types of students is not

in the academic garden. Dr CLAIRE CALLENDER

Senior Research Fellow

Policy Studies Institute London NW1

just over £400 in real terms over

the English in the 1620s? The bizarre

Ireland than the Lowlands. The idea of family or clan tartans were

Scottish national dress, the kilt. After the British government ban on Highland dress was lifted it was the

and Welsh traditions and the associated nationalism. An English Quaker, Thomas

Sir: Your article on the

#### • LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

#### **Budget hits** the poor - and lovers

10

Sir: On 25 November The Independent made a strong case for prioritising poverty reduction in the Budget ("A rich nation should budget for the poor"). Now we know the reality - that all we can expect is more of the same policies which have so tragically divided our society over the last 20 years.

The Budget should have sown the seeds of a National Poverty Eradication Plan which recognise that in a nation as rich as ours, existing levels of poverty are unacceptable. Although the Government committed itself to producing such a plan at the United Nations world summit for social development in Copenhagen last year, it now denies the need for such a plan since the UK has "the infrastructure and social security systems to prevent poverty and maintain living standards'

All 140 members of the UK Poverty Coalition can provide disturbing accounts of the impact poverty has made on families and communities. Our evidence shows that conditions are continuing to deteriorate rapidly. MONA PATEL Co-ordinator UK Coalition, UN International Year for the Eradication of Poverty

Sir: The abolition of the one-parent benefit of £6.20 a week ignores the piles of submissions to the Government showing that the current levels of income support cause parents and children to go without food or to eat an inadequate diet.

There is no published research

by the Department of Social Security which disproves the evidence of malnutrition in Britain. It is impossible to assert as they do that claimants are free to spend their money on healthy eating, since they are in a position where food, heating and clothing compete for an inadequate income. This year the Low Income Project Team report of the Department of Health makes it clear that for many people a healthy diet is beyond their means. The Commission on Social Justice reported that the poorest are dying younger than in 1981, while the rich live longer. The Budget is a killer. The Rev PAUL NICHOLSON Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire

Sir: Polly Toynbee uses a nice metaphor about the body politic being "short-circuited" so that the brain remains unaware of how money could repair the social fabric ("Poverty by a thousand cuts", 25 November). In reality the brain is not short-circuited at all. It has calculated that the costs of mequality (increased chance of crime, expenditure on burglar alarms, etc) are far outweighed by the benefits (money in the bank to buy stylish clothes, new cars and foreign holidays). The anti-welfare majority are quite prepared to live in a risk society provided they can get their fix of materialist IMORGAN

Sir. I work in England and I fly back to Northern Ireland on the 'lovers' shuttle" from Birmingham at week-ends. The flights are full of fiancées, girl and boyfriends, husbands and wives returning to their loved ones, fathers returning



home to see their families; parents flying back from marriages, christenings, graduations in Britain; old bewildered couples from "the county", who have just seen their first grandchild in England; homesick students going back for mum's Irish stew and Sir: Having retired to my family

wheaten bread, with a case full of dirty washing.

Belfast City airport on a Friday night is full of inextricably intertwined couples, women enjoying a good weep, and children running up to daddies and grannies yelling, "Have you got me a

Now the Chancellor wants to tax this at £20 for a return flight in airport duties. It's not tourists who are flying, at least at this time of year – they don't like the horizontal rain. The tax to fly home twice a month will be just under £500 a year. That's a big tax on those in love. Wasn't the Chancellor ever in love, or has any flicker of romance gone out of the

HUGH PHILLIPS Carrickfergus, Co Antrim

Sir: Following your Budget analysis ("How the Budget affects your pocket, 26 November), could you introduce me to the lady earning £85,000 who drives a Metro while her husband, earning a paltry £32,000, gets to drive the Jaguar? She is either (a) a loving, generous and caring individual, (b) averse to driving large cars, or ) bonkers.

) bouncis. Whatever the case, she seems like my type of woman. DUNCAN ABBOTT

#### Hysteria about the 'environment'

farm after a career first in forestry and then as a business consultant I have been contemplating conservation, conservationists and their often hysterical outpourings with increasing amusement.

My farm was once a post-glacial desert, then it was a birch-alder scrub, then later an oak-beechdominated woodland building up the fertile soil over many centuries

Then man arrived and cut down the trees to make the farm. Two miles up the valley his cousins felled the fine pine forest, caused the soil to deteriorate, and left it deserted to develop into a deep sphagnum bog. The woodland subspecies of the day, fauna as well as flora were, for all I know. devastated, but the corncrake arrived, and enjoyed life in the new

cultivated oats and hay babitat. By then my house was heated by peat dug from around the ancient pine roots in the nearby bog. The soil there was once again exposed and brought back into cultivation using modern methods.

Today I am too lazy to cut the peat left in my corner of the bog. The local gun club breed pheasants there and shoot them for sport. The farm, meantime, has been turned over entirely to grass and the corncrakes have all gone. The first squirrel, a grey, arrived in my strip of broadleaved woodland a week ago, to everyone's delight. I would like to invite any

conservationist to tell me: is my 'environment" endangered, or is it simply evolving as it always has

GIL WARNOCK Ballymoney, Co Antrim

November).

#### Teachers keen on grammar

Sir: As one who has spent the past 18 months trekking round the country with a grammar roadshow for teachers, I can save the School Curriculum and Assessmen Authority the bother of setting tests to determine their level of grammatical knowledge "Grammar tests for teachers", 27

Of course many teachers feel shaky about English grammar. The subject has been out of fashion in our educational system for several decades, so teachers under about 40 years of age have often been taught very little about it. Even the over-40s lack confidence, because in the intervening years new ways of analysis have been introduced and terminology like "extended nonn phrase" and "sentence

connective" have appeared in National Curriculum documents. However, given the opportunity to learn, the teachers I've met have been interested and keen to acquire the knowledge they need to get on and teach their classes.

Rather than tests and surveys which generate more and more negative headlines, why don't SCAA do what they're always

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number.

Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk).
E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

urging teachers to do: work out what their charges need to know and find efficient, effective (and preferably enjoyable) ways of communicating it to them?
SUE PALMER Language Live Truro, Cornwall

#### BSE: don't blame burgers

Sir: Contrary to popular belief, burgers and sausage meat are not the culprits in the spreading of the BSE organism ("CJD to kill hundreds", 26 November). It has been illegal to add cattle brains to mince and to sausage meat since well before BSE appeared. However, cattle brains were - and calves' brains still are - permitted in "meat products" which are defined as meat pies, pâtés, stock cubes and tinned items. The heating involved in their preparation does not

destroy this organism. The transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs), of which CJD, BSE, scrapie and kuru are examples, are caused by a uniquely mysterious infective agent poorly understood by scientists, let alone the general public. Thus it is almost indestructible, it proliferates only in the central nervous system - not in the peripheral nerves and therefore not in the muscles, which is why red meat is not infective; it lurks for years in an outwardly healthy individual whose brain is nevertheless infective, and it causes disease in some individuals only,

however big the dose swallowed. Only some types of sheep get scrapie, only some types of cattle get BSE and only one type – genotype – of humans develops CJD. That is why the expected CJD epidemic will fortunately be restricted in the way described by Charles Arthur. H C GRANT MD, FRCP London NW3

#### Battle for the British Museum

Sir: British Museum staff are pleased, yet somewhat surprised, to hear that Andrew Edwards considers neither of his proposed options for the museum palatable (letter, 22 November). Throughout his report he seeks to portray staff cuts as not only palatable but very much to Treasury tastes.

The British Museum is already

some 10 per cent below strength, and is having to close up to a third of galleries at any one time because it cannot afford to employ enough wardens. Any further cuts would seriously damage our ability to function. The debate about whether or not we should be forced into introducing admission charges will hopefully focus attention on the real issue: that the Government must restore the cuts which it has made and provide adequate longterm funding for what Mr Edwards describes as "a jewel in the nation's crown". DENIS CALNAN

TILL COOK DICK DESMOND BEVERLEY FRYER CHRIS WINTER Trade Union Side The British Museum, London, WC1

### Beauty is truth

Sir: Following your report on the marking of A-level English examinations ("Keats exam is not a thing of beauty", 23 November), I would like to add my voice to support the view of Dr Brian Martin.

The extension of the principle of quantitative assessment, as used in science examinations, to the udgement of aesthetics, is absurd. Would the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority ask pupils to judge the relative beauty of the Greek temples at Paestum in order of merit, and if so, on what basis? They might take the Parthenon as a standard of "First Class Beauty" IAN DODSWORTH





Murdoch's control of digital TV will lead to a lack of choice, says Polly Toynbee

# TV meets the law of the jungle

hey must be breaking open the cham-Rupert Murdoch's News Corp today. They have WOII what they wanted – effective control of digital broadcasting. Anyone wanting to enter the brave new world of digital television will be able to do so only through Murdoch's gateway, through his exclusive

Digital television, as the Trade and Industry Minister Ian Taylor explains on this page, will offer some 150 new channels and a whole new interactive world in which viewers can call up any film or ment he did not also take over programme from the archives. the obligation to be regulated. any specialist channel or services such as banking or shopping. For the foreseeable future, the gateway will be con-trolled by Murdoch, regulated by Oftel, the telecommunications watchdog, which has been given more power and speed of action than in previous drafts.

Mr Taylor is somewhat patronising and deeply com-placent. The Government is mortgaging access to digital TV. All along, Murdoch has argued that enterprise, daring rewarded. These sentiments are amply echoed by the minister: "Those who move first to develop the market and bear

imperative of market forces has prevailed over the principle of the level playing field.

When Murdoch set up Sky he did indeed take a phenomenai financial risk, coming within half an hour of his whole empire crashing. He risked all and gained all. BSB was a classic example of the lame follower crushed by the dominant first-comer. BSB, set up in Britain, was controlled and regulated as to content and quality, by British law. Sky never suffered any such restrictions, being based in Luxembourg, Taking over BSB, Murdoch persuaded the Govern

But in digital television he risks far less - though the rewards are likely to be similar. Few experts imagine now that anyone else will dare enter the digital market, trying to sell people a second box. To be first is to be king.

Yesterday the Government finally published its longdelayed regulations, under which Murdoch must operate. Under an EU directive he has to offer other broadcasters "open and fair" access. The behind the scenes concerns the highly complex details of what "open and fair" means in practice. Oftel will act as regulator. the brunt of the investment overseeing the price charged risk, should be able to gain and the prominence that is some advantage from doing allowed to other broadcasters' The Government has programmes. (Murdoch could

example). Don Cruikshank of Oftel carries immense authordoubt do his best. (Strong rumours that Murdoch's men have been lobbying for Cruik-shank's removal show that they

do consider him an obstacle.) Both BBC and ITV lobbied fiercely for all Murdoch's boxes to have a connector for a common interface, to ensure that no one operator had sole control. They lost that battle. So the BBC has been arguing for

ensured that they will: the put BBC1 on channel 219, for it to be mandatory for Mur- broadcast services is too imdoch to license out his technology to any manufacturer wanting to make compatible boxes. Sir Christopher Bland. the chairman of the BBC, gave a blistering speech last week warning the Government not to give Murdoch sole control. He reminded them darkly that the BBC was dumped from Murdoch's Asia satellite when it offended China with its forth-

right documentaries.
Yesterday the BBC said:

portant to be at the mercy of market forces or commercial negoitiations with dominant suppliers. It is essential for consumer choice that no individual company or group of companies controls the digital gateway." ITV said: "These regulations go some way to meet our concerns, but they still may not be enough to prevent a single operator acting as

But there is nothing anyone Yesterday the BBC said: But there is nothing anyone Labour will "pray against" "Consumer access to all digital can do now. The fight is effect-the laying of these regulations,

ively over. The Government has given Murdoch most of what he wants, although Oftel has been given more teeth than News Corp would have liked. Murdoch recently described sports rights as his "battering ram" for gaining entry into people's homes with his dishes. But an even more powerful battering ram is his command

cians to give him what he wants in his commercial dealings.

of the press to intimidate politi-

ensuring that there is at least a debate in the Commons. But it will come to nothing, because the regulations cannot be amended in the House. In government, Labour

could reopen some of these issues - including the question of monopolistic media ownership. Labour could challenge Murdoch's cross-subsidy of his loss-making Times with funds others with his anti-competitive would never allow such preda- our very eyes.

tory pricing. Labour could reopen the question of quality and content on the Sky channels, enforcing the EU quota of at least 51 per cent European programmes.

Ian Taylor writes with disdain: "The subject can be very emotive." Indeed it can. He mocks the suggestion that "the Government is standing idly by. watching media moguls follow from Sky in order to drive out a remorseless course to global domination." Yet that is what price war. US competition law we are seeing unfolding before

# new era, a new market

of the information society to competition between different providers and delivery platforms. resterday the Government published detailed proposals for the regulation of an important ele-

ment of this, conditional access. In pay television, such as BSkyB and cable currently offer, if you have a subscription then conditional access is the technology which lets you view your chosen programmes. It is also the technology that lets broadcasters reach the consumer. Typ-

which the viewer has to buy or digital television in this country will be a rent and which will in future be needed to receive all digital televital step in opening vision services, including those put out by the BBC and ITV. up the new markets The consumer is unlikely to

buy more than one such box. So the box, and the conditional access technology within it, form a gateway between all broadcasters and all consumers. The person who controls the box controls this gateway. This is a subject on which

there has been a good deal of press and parliamentary interest in the last few weeks. Much of the coverage has been sadly one-sided and singularly illinformed. The subject can be very emotive, as it often becomes tangled with concerns about editorial freedom. The worry is that, unregulated, the keeper of the digital gateway could extract a terrible price for opening it to others. Perhaps it would be tempted to open the gate only to the highest bidder, eventually excluding public service channels. Perhaps, if it also had use its control to harm its competitors. Perhaps it could even exert influence on programme content in return for access.

They have been addressed in the regulations we brought into force in August and again yesterday. But the coverage continuing in some quarters of the media tries to suggest the Government is standing idly by, watching media moguls follow a remorseless course to global domination. Some commentators must have been asleep in the months while these issues were debated in the Broadcasting Bill.

I first issued outline proposals suggesting how we would approach regulation of conditional access in January: After detailed debates in the House, fuller proposals were published in June and regulations were brought into force in August on the licensing of the essential technology to set-top box manufacturers, a fact which some commentators still have trouble acknowledging. But then not everyone wants to let the facts get in the way of a good story. Again we took account of extensive representations to refine further the proposals, which were published yesterday. After a short period of final consultation we will lay the remaining regulations before the House before the recess. They will then



The digital age offers bright prospects, and the right level of regulation is in place, says Ian Taylor

come into force within 21 days. The Government remains committed to ensuring the early development of digital services on all broadcast platforms. We wish to see the development of competition, as the best guarantor of healthy markets and of the consumer interests. There are many siren voices calling for extreme actions in their own self-

interest. The Government has to role, we have to provide strong balance all these interests. The market for digital televi-sion services will be different

from the analogue market. It will not be a question of "200 channels and still nothing on". Digital TV will bring an era of highvalue, interactive multimedia services, bringing substantial benefits to the UK economy. Consumers will be able to call down special-interest programmes, take out electronic season tickets to follow their home football team, conduct bome shopping, even after camera angles to track a favourite star. Viewers will have control not just between channels but in programming their own enter-tainment. This will be a growing feature as personal computer and TV delivery converge.

Early development of this market is of great importance to the UK. Innovation and early investment must be rewarded. but there must be sufficient regulatory certainty to encourage it. Those who move first to develop the market, and bear the brunt of the investment risk, should be able to gain some advantage from doing so. At the same time though, given the power of the conditional access gate-keeping

There are extensive powers for the regulator should there be any abuse which may distort,

restrict or prevent competition. In practice, in implementing the European directive we have no authority to mandate particular standards, as the Italian government has recently found out. If we over-regulate, we will destroy incentives to invest in digital. Our framework is essentially permissive, and will bite and bite hard - only in the case of anti-competitive behaviour. The power of the conditional access gateway demands no less.

But regulation alone rarely creates services. For that we need the initiative, capabilities and resources of the market players. Given the profundity of the investment challenge, broadcasting interests could usefully develop a more co-operative approach to these problems. rather than sniping at each other across the regulations. Serious investors should concentrate on programme content, which will have the power to enthuse viewers to switch to the digital age.

The writer is Minister for Science

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### Making a will? Leave it all to the experts



Miles Kington

id you know that 90 per cent of people in this country die before they have made a will? Did you know that most of those who have made a will

end up leaving all their money to the Government? Did you know that over half the wills made by people cannot be found after their death because they are too well hidden?

Did you know that a will is not valid if written on greaseproof paper (see the case of Rex v Staples 1949)? Did you know that none

true? And that they are merely the kind of statistic put at the top of articles which aim to frighten you into making a will?

This is such an article. But don't worry. This article is an article which takes you gently by the hand and leads you painlessly through the various stages of making

contained in the reading of a

Ready? First of all, you're going to need a large piece of paper. Very large, if you're well off. Not so large, if you haven't got much to leave. Very large indeed, if you are going to write one of those old-fashioned wills which goes into great detail about how you feel about all your relatives, servants, old girlfriends, etc. especially if you take the opportunity to say things posthumously which you felt it was too dangerous to say in your lifetime, such as that Lord Lucan is a murderer. ("I am often asked," writes a lawyer, whether it is possible to commit libel posthumously through a libellous statement

dead person cannot commit libel. However, the solicitor reading out such a statement to the assembled relatives and mourners can be prosecuted for slander, and I would advise Lord Lucan to go for a killing with the solicitor! If you know what I mean..." At the top of the paper write in big curly

letters "This is the Last Will

and Testament of ...

("I am often asked." writes a lawyer, "if one has to write that this is the last will and testament every time one makes a will. Obviously, only one will can be the last one. But each one is the last at the time of making it. Therefore one should go through ali previous wills at the time of making a new one, altering the wording to say This is the Penultimate Will and Testament of, or This is the Last but Three Will and Testament', but in practice this is not necessary.")

You may at this point wonder why it says will AND testament. Is there any difference between a will and a testament? If not, why are both mentioned? Well,

like all politicians and Welshmen, like to indulge in tautology to sound sincere. They repeat everything in different words. They say "certainly and assuredly", or "I hope and pray", because it sounds twice as impressive even though it is merely

twice as long.
Right. We've got as far as
the first line. Now we have to

put your name in, so that it reads "This is the last will and testament of John Arthur Nettlebed", assuming that that is your name. If that is not your own name, use your own name. otherwise Mr Nettlebed will be giving away a lot of

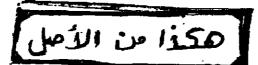
("When I said just now," writes a lawyer, "that one will must always be the last will, this is not strictly true. It IS possible to have two last wills written at the same time, or at least witnessed at the same time. and who is then to say which is the correct will of these two? In one case in which I was involved, the late lamented had apparently divided his

estate among his family in

one will and given it all to his solicitor in the other, making both wills at the same time. It was then noticed that the second will was written in the solicitor's handwriting! How we laughed! But sadly we had

to set it aside.") We now come to the bit where you say, "I, being of sound mind...", which very properly raises the question: if a bloke was of unsound mind, would be dishonestly conceal this while writing a will, and lyingly put "I being of sound mind" at the start of his will? Alternatively, would a perfectly sane chap for a joke write at the beginning of his will: "I. being off my trolley..." All this, and more, explained next time.

This is the first of a 500-part series on "How to Make Your Will". If you want the other 499 parts, simply send a blank cheque and we will do the rest! If you are over 50, name your next of kin. If you are not sure who your next of kin is, send for our booklet, "Who Is My Next of Kin, and Why Does He Never Come to See Me?"



### It's the heart of our democracy, and it's boring

am afraid I was bored by that budget. Economic journalists are supposed to be bright-eyed and bushy-tailed about these things. We are sup-posed to maintain that budgets are terribly important, even when they don't feel like that. But nearly everybody, at least in the media or in the world of finance, seems to agree that budgets have become much more boring than they used to be. And for anyone who cares about the future of democracy that is worrying indeed. Public spending in Britain takes a little more than 40 per

cent of national output, low by European standards but high by the standards of the US, Japan and especially the "tiger" economies of East Asia. That means that 40 per cent of the economic decisions are taken not by us, but by "them". We pay enormous attention to the deci-sions we take - whether we can afford to go out to the theatre, have an overseas holiday, move house-wondering whether the money will be well spent. By contrast, we pay hardly any attention to the decisions taken by them - whether to buy new fighter planes, increase teacher salaries, pay more to the unem-ployed - the very decisions determined by the budgetary process. We do not connect, except at the vaguest level, the amount of money taken away from us and the way in which this is spent. We do not even have the information to connect, for we have very little idea of how much revenue various taxes bring in, and even less of how much things bought by the public sector really cost. While the

tax side of the equation does have a certain obvious interest, the spending side is very, very bor-

This is dreadful. If we think of taxation as disappearing into some sort of black hole and complain that there are never enough funds to provide half-decent schools and hospitals, then we are questioning the very basis of our contract with the state. The climate of complaint is completely understandable, but it is deeply corrosive. For the moment we may be able to convince ourselves that if the other side got in it would all be different. But it won't, because there will be no more money for public services if there is no more money taken in taxes. Result: we will be

further undermined. So what is to be done? There are two broad ways forward. One is to connect taxation to public spending item by item. The other is for the state to retain the overall responsibility for public services but encourage a shift to paying for

these by a combination of savings and insurance. The economists' ugly word for tying particular taxes to particular types of spending is "hypothecation". The Treasury, not just ours but treasuries all around the world, hate it. They hate it partly because it strips away their authority, for ordinary people might have different ideas about the level and allocation of taxation to the



Hamish McRae

A little honesty about how we are taxed and how that money is spent would make us all pay more

attention

boffins in Whitehall. Politicians react in much the same way. There are, however, more respectable reasons for resisting too much hypothecation. For

example, many public spending decisions have very long tails, with decisions taken now affect with decisions taken now affecting spending in 20 or more years'
time. So the people making the
spending decision will not necessarily be those paying for it.
Such a system probably also
over-weights the importance of
lobby groups: articulare and well
organized accuracy would recobe. organised groups would proba-bly find it easier to impose taxes and allocate spending than the less organised, whose interests would suffer. And there are some economic activities, like motoring, which do generate the funds needed to maintain that activity. Give back to the motoring interest more of the money raised in finel and road tax and we might have a great road network, but we would not have so much left over to fund general public sector needs.

Nevertheless, connecting taxation to spending is one way of increasing its legitimacy, and there are powerful reasons for trying to show people where their money does go, and allow-ing them to have some say in it. If some cases were specifically used to fund particular objectives, then we could gauge the support for them. The German "solidarity tax", an additional income tax levied on Germans to transfer funds to the former East Germany, is a good example - even if it makes East Germans a bit less popular.

The other way forward is to

connect what people pay directly to what they receive. The obvious example here is the pension system: if the pension portion of people's contribution to National Insurance were invested on their behalf, and they received a statement each year of the return on this fund and the value of accumulated pension rights, National Insurance would cease to seem a tax and be a genuine savings/insurance scheme. The transfer of funds to the present generation of pensioners would be emplicit. We would know what we were buying, and we would trust it.

A saving/insurance system makes redistribution from the haves to the have-nots more explicit, and thus maybe harder. But in practice the tax system does not redistribute very much at the moment and in so far as it does, it is tak ing money from people at one stage of their life and giving it back to them at another. In fact, if redistribution were made explicit rather than covert, people could make an honest decision about the extent to which they did want a redistributive tax system.

That is the word: honest. People are not sta-pid. They know that higher public spending means higher taxes. They need to feel they are getting value for money. They need honesty in taxation honesty in spending. They mustn't feel impotent in the face of the state. And they mustn't be bored by the core decisions of our

# When glamour is beyond parody

fere's Hollywood's next DREAM GIRL," yells the cover line on this month's American edition of Esquire magazine. "The Allegra Cole-

man Nobody Knows."

Allegra's blond form blots out half the magazine's title. So this is the new one. You take her in at a glance, without question, the latest mayfly to beguite 10 minutes in the waiting room or the strap-hang home, the newest hapless hopeful to keep the bar code readers bleeping all over the West.
There's got to be a twist, there's always a new twist, so what is it this time? Ordinariness writ large. Blond hair un-evenly parted, going a little dark at the roots, exploding in split ends around her shoulders. A broad, pleasant, crooked smile. Tidy breasts under a ribbed white cotton vest that's been through the washing machine several times too often and rides above her navel. Grey slacks hanging like grim death on to non-existent hips. They've really gone to town

on the ordinary number here; it's really cool, really postmodern, this suburban lateteen banality deconstructed and put together this way with such attention to detail. Yes, we

Only this time it's a spoof. The idea is that Allegra Coleman, from her dumb name to her dreary clothes and her fatuous declarations ("I am having thoughts. Really get-ting into thinking") is a satiri-cal invention, a delirious pisstake of every sad little girl pumped by Hollywood's big, efficient machine into some-

thing profitably iconic.
"Allegra is utterly oblivious to herself, to her body": an imaginary director - he directed Coleman "in her small part as a deaf swimmer in Cliffhanger". "Like she's got a divine, passive unselfconsciousness ... And you know, that's very attractive

The piece works and makes one laugh, but it's an extremely close-run thing. Because a magazine like Esquire is already cluttered with healthy speciwomanhood who have scarcely better claims on our attention than Allegra. The magazine runs the sort

of risk that Tatler might if it were to splash a marginally exaggerated Tamara Beckwith lookalike on the cover, or if Hello! were to ... but no, it's impossible to imagine how Hello! could parody itself on purpose; the thing is already relentlessly, helplessly self-parodic from front to back.

by Peter Popham



#### The hero created himself; the celebrity is created by the media. The hero was a big man; the celebrity is a big name

reached: that celebrity can be mark. The hero created himconjured out of next-to-noth- self; the celebrity is created by ing, and yet for mysterious rea- the media. The hero was a big sons we continue to buy it. man; the celebrity is a big mens of American man/ How did we get into such a sitname. uation? And does it matter?

It has been a pretty long time coming. It was back in 1961 that Daniel Boorstin gave what remains the pithiest definition of modern fame:

"The celebrity is a person who is known for his wellknownness," he wrote in his book The Image. "He is neither good nor bad, great nor petty.
He is the human pseudo-event
... The hero was distinguished
by his achievement; the

This is the pass we have celebrity by his image or trade-

The journey to this strange destination began with the invention of rotary presses and mass circulation newspapers in the last century. But it was the arrival of the movies and of movie stars that really got the

The first movie star was probably Flora Lawrence: unlike her predecessors, Flora was billed under her own name. earned a decent wage (the pre-vious ceiling had been \$15 per

week) and made the first public appearance in movie history when she visited St Louis, squired by her leading man, one King Baggott.

Then the thing exploded: within four years, leading players' fees had bounded from \$15 to \$2,500 per week. In 1916 Mary Pickford signed the movies first million-dollar contract, and something changed for ever. "It was at the moment this deal made headlines," Richard Schickel wrote in his book Common Fame, "that reward began to detach itself from effort and from intrinsic

Hollywood was on its way. Tomorrow: the Fame Factory,

The mix of unimaginable wealth with the glamour and fantasy of the pictures made it the most formidable celebrity machine in history. But, almost from the outset, there was a glaring contradiction between the heavenly versions of reality shown on the screen and the hellish depths of addiction and violence to which many of the players plunged - and for the film studios the problem was that the negative images could resonate just as powerfully as

the positive ones. So when, in 1921, the former plumber's mate Fatty Arbuckle the "Riot o' Laffs Balloonatic" beloved of kiddies all over the country, was implicated in the rape and murder of an actress at a movie stars' orgy in a hotel in San Francisco, Hollywood was catapulted into the worst possible headlines. "AR-BUCKLE ORGY - RAPER DANCES WHILE VICTIM DIES," screamed one.

The public reaction was rapid and violent. In Connecticut, women tore down the screen in a cinema where an Arbuckle comedy was showing. In Wyoming, cowhands shot the screen full of holes. Eggs and bottles were thrown; his films were withdrawn from circulation. After three trials, Arbuckle was finally cleared of guilt. But he was never to be lorgiven, and died a drunk at

the age of 46.

Hollywood had been taught a nasty lesson. After numerous other scandals and cover-ups, and attempts at censorship and regulation, the solution was to scale down Hollywood's heroes to the level of ordinary folks. They might be rich beyond the dreams of Croesus, but sheer envy was dangerous magic; much safer to press the normal button, to drive home the message that these huge figures up on the screen were, in essence

merely ordinary folks.

They were neither gods nor devils. "The old exotic fancies were ... cancelled out," Schickel wrote. "A new fiction of

ordinariness was created." Celebrity had been cut down to size, the old heroic nonsense reduced to sensible, moderate, modern images which people could identify with. At the same time, it became a commodity: trickier to package and handle than chewing gum or Coke, to be sure, but rooted with equal banality in the realities of the market. But for a long time nobody spotted this. It took the genius of Andy Warhol to seize between a can of soup and the face of Marilyn Monroe.

### Human rights, British wrongs

We could be spared our blushes by incorporating the European convention, argues Patricia Wynn Davies

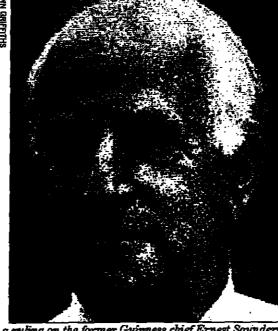
If there is a same lesson to be learned from the Lord Chancellor's unusual visit to the European Court of Human Rights on Monday, it is the one HM Government is least

willing to learn. The ruling by the Strasbourg court the same day, upholding the archaic English law of biasphemy in the dispute over the little-known video Visions of Ecstasy, was exactly the sort of case that should never have reached it, one official remarked, correctly. The Government should have done the sensible thing years ago and made the European Convention on Human Rights part of British law. Then cases such as this – involving the "margin of appreciation" principle that individual countries have wider latitude in defining human rights in the moral and social field - would reach the court less often, as British judges would be applying the convention themselves. This would have been one way of

ensuring that more notice was taken of British laws and traditions, and that less dirty washing was laundered on the international stage. But successive Conservative administrations have chosen instead to make human rights claims as difficult to pursue as possible - forcing individuals to embark on the tortuous business of complaining to Strasbourg, and then engaging in outraged spin-doctoring when a decision - years later - goes against the Government.

Monday's visit can be traced directly back to last year's ruling, by a narrow majority of the Strasbourg court, that the killing of three unarmed IRA termonists in the Gibraltar "death on the rock" incident involved unnecessary force Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, led the wave of protests; none the less, the individual right of individual petition was still quietly and permanently renewed. Influence", advised Whitehall and the Foreign Office, was the practical Italy has suffered 91 violations over 23





The visit of Lord Mackay (left) to Strasbourg precedes a ruling on the former Guinness chief Ernest Saunders

and politically acceptable way forward. Hence Malcolm Rifkind's position statement last year, declaring the Government "concerned about some recent judgments of the court" and this week's lobbying exercise, however subtle, by the Lord Chancellor, Lord

It is the most recent manifestation of the Government trying to have it both ways over Strasbourg. Britam has won more cases than is commonly believed, and there is annoyance in Government circles whenever its Strasbourg record is paraded in the media - 42 violations of the convention, 25 wins and 10 pending cases out of a total of 81 complaints over the past 36 years.

was pointed out this week. But if the UK's record is not so bad after all, why does it choose to dispatch the head of its judiciary, who also happens to sit in the Cabinet, on a mission to persuade a set of independent judges to take more account of British ways?

Officials have spotlighted five past and two pending cases where the Government claims the "margin of approciation should have been, or should be, applied in Britain's favour. Significantly, Lord Mackay's visit has come just a few weeks before a ruling in one of them, in which the former Guinness chief executive Ernest Saunders has complained under article six of the convention that he was deprived of a

years and France 38 over 15 years, it fair trial when statements made under compulsion to Department of Trade and Industry inspectors were used in evidence against him. The Govern-ment insists that the Bill Goodwin case safeguarding the confidentiality of iournalists' sources was wrongly decided, and that the court was wrong to interfere with the Home Secretary's discretion to release young murderers held at Her Majesty's Pleasure. The list goes on, underpinned by the belief that "human rights" is somehow a subject that should only trouble less developed democracies than ours.

law would give those cases that did go all the way to Strasbourg the benefit of UK judges' views on whether a per-

son's human rights had been breached. But the Government believes it is bet-ter to carp from the sidelines, seek to exert "influence" - with possibly the opposite effect in many cases - favour government service lawyers for judicial appointment, and issue vague threats. "For the support of the citi-zens of the Council of Europe countries for the convention and its mechanisms to be full-hearted," Mr Rifkind loftily declared in his statement, "it is important that the Strasbourg institutions ... respect the decisions of local democratic institutions and tribunals."

The strategy could have been specifically designed to make Britain's posi-tion worse, not better - and could have other unforeseen ramifications.

Current reforms of the Strasbourg machinery will create a full-time rather than part-time court, requiring a full-time British judge, appointed well before the age of 70. The more pres-tigious Britain's judge is, the more impact he or see will have in shaping the way the new structure coerates. the way the new structure operates. But what kind of independent-

minded, high-ranking British legal figure - even assuming he or she were put forward by the Government as a candidate - would go? Gordon Slynn, Britain's former judge on the EU Court of Justice at Luxembourg, became a law lord on his return to the UK. But the Government has ensured the Strasbourg court is so undervalued that the idea of someone in that league considering appointment is dismissed as "fanciful" in Strasbourg circles.

It is time for a change of direction beginning, as Labour has pledged to do, with incorporating the convention. Lord Mackay has suggested that this would draw the British judiciary into the "political" arena, and some judges seem uneasy. But they would all sim-Making the convention part of UK ply get on with the job, however tricky, we would give those cases that did go of reaching decisions based on legal principle. The sooner they are asked

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# business & city

# Clarke faces triple Budget backlash

### Economists outraged by spending plans

Diane Coyle Economics Editor

The spending and tax plans in Tuesday's Budget came in for fe-rocious criticism from economists yesterday, even as Kenneth Clarke claimed he had been more prudent than commentators had expected.

"It incorporates fiddles that would make the French blush, I am staggered by it," said Adam Cole, an economist at City bro-kers James Capel. "It has obviously been one of the loosest spending rounds in recent years."

David Mackie, an expert at investment bank JP Morgan, said: "It is not at all clear that the plans on paper can ever be delivered."

Economists were particularly outraged by changes in the conventions for presenting the spending plans which made them appear stricter than they really were. In particular, the sales of the student loan book and Ministry of Defence housing were classed, not as privatisation revenues, but rather offset against the departmental

spending programmes. The departure from convention allowed the Treasury to present the key public spending target, the Control Total, as about £2bn lower next year than it would otherwise have been.

Despite the new adjustments, and despite slashing £900m from estimated contributions to the EU, the Budget also raised the Control Total for the current financial year by £500m. BSErelated spending of £1.5bn was partly to blame.

Few analysts thought the Budget would allow the Chancellor to avoid raising interest rates if the Government was to hit its inflation target.

society yesterday announced it

A row broke out yesterday when

it emerged that the Budget will

heavily penalise new long-term

Peter Rodgers

rates were on the increase.

Mr Clarke insisted he would raise interest rates if he had to. "I leave myself all the room for manoeuvre I require to deliver my inflation target," he said. The City made some al-

lowance for the political pressures on the Chancellor. "For a pre-election Budget it was much more prudent than expected," said David Owen, an economist at Kleinwort Benson. However, several aspects of

the plans contained in the Bud-Red Book were criticised. Most analysts doubted that the crackdown on tax avoidance and social security fraud would deliver the £6.7bn savings Mr Clarke had claimed. "If it was that easy, the Government

'It incorporates fiddles that would make the French blush. I

am staggered'

would have done it long ago," said Michael Dicks, UK economist at Lehman Brothers. the kind of thing the Italians put in their budgets," he said.

He also pointed out that the unexpectedly small figure of a net tax cut of £735m next year relied on savings of £560m from VAT anti-avoidance measures. The normal net figure in past years has included only mechanical estimates of the effect of tax changes rather than judge-ments and predictions. On the usual basis the giveaway in this

There was particular con-

by 0.3 per cent because base ceeds from the sale of the student loan book, amounting to £1.5bn a year for the next three years, had not been explicitly in-

corporated in the Red Book. Like the £940m this year and £700m in 1997/98 from the sale of MoD housing, the Treasury subtracted it from departmental spending instead of counting it as privatisation receipts.

loan sale had been accounted for in that way because the transfer to the private sector meant it was as if students had repaid their loans to the Government early. Adjusting for these two elements, and the fact that the contingency reserve for 1997/98 was cut by £2.5bn, the Government's departmental spending plans for next year are £3bn higher than in last year's

Budget.
"The fairly unimportant tax changes have deflected attention from the fact that this has been a loose spending round. The Government can not get away with this," said Mr Cole. The Treasury also abandoned

the convention of basing forecast social security spending on un-changed unemployment figures, pencilling in falling unemploy-ment benefit spending instead. This has reduced Government spending by several hundred million pounds in 1997/98 compared to the previous plans.

City experts were equally doubtful about Mr Clarke's inflation forecast. The Budget shows it falling to 2.5 per cent on the target measure by the end of 1997. But this is below the average of other forecasts, and any overshoot on inflation will lead to Government spending overshooting its targets too. Sterling rose during the day's

trading before closing unchanged at DM2.55. The FTSE 100 index fell 19 points to



Man of the moment: Kenneth Clarke insisted he would raise interest rates if he had to:

### Utilities facing £5bn bill over cut tax breaks

Business Correspondent

Drastic reductions to tax breaks for long-term investment in-troduced in the Budget could cost the privatised utilities more than £5bn and could be more costly than Labour's proposed windfall tax, a leading tax expert

predicted yesterday.

The changes, which slash the initial value of tax allowances for much of the utilities' capital spending, were already being used last night as a weapon in the hostile takeover battle for Northern Electric and could also alter the fierce arguments between British Gas and the industry regulator over pipeline

charges.

The provisions reduce the amount of investment firms can offset against their tax bills from 25 per cent to 6 per cent if the cash is spent on long-term assets with a life of more than 25 years. The rules do not ap-ply to shops, hotels, offices, rail-

ways, ships and small firms.

The Treasury said it would raise £325m in 1998-99 rising to £675m in 1999-2000, a large chunk of which is likely to hit

the utilities.
Graham Ward, head of utility tax at accountants Price Waterhouse, said his clients were "extremely concerned." He estimated the total cost to utility shareholders in years to come would run into several billions of pounds: "If you look at all the businesses excluded from this then you are really only left with the utilities."

A director of another privatised company pledged to fight the legislation when it came before Parliament. He complained: "This isn't quite a substitute windfall tax but it's difficult to understand the justification for it except in polit-

Sources close to British Gas suggested the issue could have an impact on the row between the watchdog, Ofgas, and TransCo, the company's pipeline business which is currently being investigated by the Monopolies and Mergers Com-

Philip Rogerson, British Gas deputy chairman, was investigating the impact. He ex-plained: "It obviously has an effect on us. Gas, water and out at you immediately. It will hit profits and it will hit cash-

The changes were also seized on by CE Electric, the US owned business engaged in the hostile takeover battle for Northern Electric, the privatised regional electricity company. David Sokol, CE's chief ex-

ecutive said: "This unexpected tax change could have the effect of increasing the amount of tax Northern Electric pays. This may have a significant negative effect on the value of Northern Electric shares."

British Telecom believed the tax change would cost £10m a

#### Gas, water and electricity companies leap out immediately It will hit profits

year, though most of its hightech investment would not be affected because it has an economic life" of less than 25 years. The National Grid could pay an extra £20m a year in tax.

Ken Hill, finance director of South West Water claimed his company would be directly hit: "We are looking into the fine print at the moment but it looks as though all water companies will be paying more tax very quickly." The fears hit most utility shares, with United Utilities dropping 6p to 598.5p and the National Grid falling 1.5p to 194.5p. Labour insisted there would

be no change to its planned windfall tax, though party officials were delighted that the utilities were now likely to shift some of their lobbying effort against the Government.

Frank Dobson, Labour's environment spokesman, said: "The utilities behaviour has left themselves open to the charge that they've got away with murder. They may come to realise that our windfall tax isn't

The implications were sinking in as Ofwat, the water watchdog, yesterday criticised many privatised water firms for not doing enough to reduce

#### incentive plans recommended by National Insurance charge on Arthur Andersen, chartered profits made by staff from longaccountants, and president of the Greenbury Committee on term incentive schemes, making the Society of Share Scheme share option schemes. them much more expensive. Practitioners, said: "It will be an Tax experts said that in a The same will apply to share extra cost to the company and option schemes that have not detrimental to the cause of emcrackdown on payment of

escape PAYE - the Inland

Revenue had also unexpected-

ly caught these other schemes.

As a result, companies will have

to pay a 10 per cent employers'

T&N, the engineering group, yesterday unveiled a groundbreaking insurance deal and further provisions together worth a total of £1.2bn as it attempted to draw a line under its past as one of the world's biggest sbestos producers.

The group's shares soared 32p to 176.5p, having been 35p higher at one stage, as analysts welcomed the move as lifting longstanding fears that T&N could be overwhelmed by a flood of personal injury suits from asbestosis sufferers on both sides of the Atlantic. Sir Colin Hope, the chairman.

said: "It really is that an as-bestos-free T&N is looking a re-

to cap the group's liability to fu-

ture claims, which have already surance, arranged through brocost approaching £350m over the past 20 years, following a decision by US judges earlier this year to uphold an appeal against a previous class action settlement, the so-called Georgiae settlement.

Following an actuarial study carried out by KPMG based on "worst case" assumptions, T&N will take a provision of £323m in this year's accounts to cover future claims, plus a further £50m for past claims which the group has already warned it could suffer if Georgine fails. The charge will be financed by disposals, borrowings and cash flow and will not involve a

rights issue "in the near term". In addition, the group has nelistic possibility." gotiated insurance cover worth
The latest plan is an attempt
£500m if the total nominal value of claims tops £690m. The in-

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Walker's Asbestosis insurance children in deal lifts T&N shares £35m suit

of the German Zurich Group,

Munich Reinsurance and Eu-

ropean International Reinsur-

ance, part of Swiss Re. The deal

is thought to be the first time fu-

ture asbestos claims have been

very good quality companies. The liability is world-wide and

with no time limit, so we had to

make sure they would be

He said that the company had

been "very, very careful to do

a very prudent deal in terms of

The actuarial figures sug-

gested that they were around

half-way through the potential

claims, with perhaps a further

£320m to £330m still to go.

around in 30 years."

calculations."

Sir Colin said: "These are

Brian Friedman, a partner in

which have become increasingretrogressive sten ly popular since the Government removed most of the tax benefits of share options last year.

Roger Trapp

Former Brent Walker chair-

man and chief executive George

Walker's three children are su-

ing the company, Standard

Chartered, its lead lending

bank, and two trustees of the

family trust for repayment of £35m used to support the

leisure group in the early 1990s.

A writ issued by the solicitors

Harkavys in the High Court this

week in the names of Mr Walk-

er's three children - Jason,

Sarah and Romla - and the

French family trust company

Jasaro alleges that £27.5m was

transferred from the trust com-

pany to Brent Walker in 1990 af-

ter duress and should be repaid

The document also claims

that £7.5m paid to Standard

Chartered in the following year

Crackdown will hit Greenbury incentive plans

Furthermore, the wording of the new regulations appears to bring a huge extra windfall to the holders of existing long-term incentive plans and unauthorised share option schemes.

The company rather than the recipient will be liable to pay income tax on the profits, but will not be able to deduct the

salaries in shares - a dodge used sought Revenue authorisation, ployee share ownership. It is a tax at source or have a legal term plan may be 20 times as right to claim it back from staff. much. Mr Friedman said: "I Mr Friedman said: "It is going to catch every unapproved share option scheme and every long-term incentive plan. It is going to be a nightmare to handle."

The tax glitch is because the maximum tax a company is allowed to withhold from an emplovee under PAYE is a month's salary, but the tax on a long-

George Walker: Awarded £6m in a recent ruling

should be repaid with interest.

Standard Chartered confirmed

that it had received the writ, but

had no particular comment to

make. Brent Walker could not

after a French court ruled that

Brent Walker should repay Mr

Walker more than £6m. The

case related to a claim dating back to 1989, when Mr Walker

lent £20m to the company to

help fund the acquisition of the William Hill chain.

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be reached for comment.

have clients with long-term plans vesting this week and they have no mechanism for withholding the tax." Future schemes could include an agreement with the employ-

ee to cover the tax, but the society will be pressing the Government to take account of electricity companies all leap the problems of existing schemes.

### Moorfield makes £214m offer for Greycoat

Nic Cicutti

Moorfield Estates, the ambitious property company run by two former top-rated City analysts, launched its expected bid for Greycoat yesterday, an-nouncing detailed terms of a £214m offer for the owner of Embankment Place, the giant office development near London's Charing Cross station. The bid, made up of Moor-field shares and loan notes, will give Greycoat shareholders the net asset value of their

holdings as determined by an independent valuation. The value of the loan notes issued will be set by reference to the value of two central london properties, Embankment Place and an office block on Buckingham Palace Road, estimated by Moorfield to be

worth about £110m. Moorfield's move follows weeks of speculation over the likely terms of its offer. The company's initial approach earlier this month was rejected by Greycoat as being "vague as to value". It called for Moorfield to provide

more detailed proposals.

Marc Gilbard, managing director at Moorfield, said: "Following a meeting yesterday, we have made an offer to Greycoat and we look forward to working with the company on the

The offer by Moorfield was made in a presentation by Ham-bro Magan, Moorfield's advis-ers, to NM Rothschild, acting for Greycoat.

A spokeswoman for Greycoat said that it was too early for the company to give an immediate reaction to the bid, which would

The bid looks set to spark a bitter takeover battle between the two firms. Moorfield is headed by Mr Gilbard and Graham Stanley, former property analysis who quit their jobs at Goldman Sachs to take control of the company,

They have built up a City fanclub after a string of innovative deals, including teaming up with Blackstone, a privately owned New York investment bank, which has 8.6 per cent of Moorfield. Greycoat has come under fire from rebel investors for poor management. UK Active Value Fund, headed by Brian Myerson and Julian Treger, its second-biggest investor with an 11 per cent stake, is calling for the group to liq-uidate its £500m portfolio.

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#### **Bearish PDFM fund** manager gets £989,000 Peter Rodgers

Tony Dye, the fund manager at PDFM who believes the stock market is heading for a sharp fall, earned £989,000 in 1995, an increase of 11 per cent over the previous year. The bearish strategy by one

of the City's best-paid fund managers was inaugurated in a year during which PDFM's fund management profits rose sharply. Under Mr Dye, PDFM began to stick its neck out in 1995 with a large scale bet on a stock market crash, which he believes is inevitable.

It switched heavily from equities to cash, which now makes up about 15 per cent of its assets, but because the collapse in equities failed to materialise Mr Dye's adventurous strategy is now being watched with fascination by the rest of the fund

management industry.
PDFM, part of Union Bank of Switzerland, has fallen dramatically to the bottom of league tables as the stock market has continued to rise, languishing at 69th and last in a recent survey by CAPS, the performance measurement

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### Clarke gilded the lily with his fingers crossed

spend to save instead. What he must have meant was spending to save his job rather than spending to save public money, for af-ter another day of taking a toothcomb to the detail of the Government's Budget forecasts. it is plain that front-line Government ex-

penditure is not being cut in the way the Chancellor would like us to believe. The headline spending totals for 1997/98 are a bit lower than last year's plans, but departmental spending on programmes - what most of us mean by public spending - turns out to be about £3bn higher. The bottom line is that the Government

has actually increased its planned spending, not cut it. The spending round was after all not as "eye-wateringly" tight as Mr Clarke claimed in his Budget speech, unless he was referring to the ingenuity squeezed out of Treasury officials in concocting the plans. The approach of an election is having its normal effect on expenditure control.

An internal contradiction in the Chancellor's claims should already have alerted everyone to the fact that the Budget was not as tough as he advertised. While claiming prushes the street of the fact that the street was not as tough as he advertised. dence on the one hand, with his fingers crossed behind his back, on the other he was insisting that the tax burden on "ordinary families" was falling. The Government was back

the Government hopes to gain from antiavoidance measures. True, the extra burden falls mainly on business rather than the indi-

vidual, but ultimately we all end up paying.
This does not mean that the Budget was tough, however, for the share of Government spending in GDP is most unlikely to fall as predicted. Moreover, Mr Clarke has used some tricks that even his opposite numbers in France and Italy could have been proud of in his attempt to make the figures look as flattering as possible. For instance, anticipated proceeds from the sale of MoD housing and the student loan book have been taken onto the books as if they were a cut in spending. Needless to say, this does not count as far as the Maastricht criteria are concerned. But

then anything France can do... Give Mr Clarke the credit he is due; it could have been a lot worse, and he resisted pressure for an overt pre-election splurge. But he has delivered more of a spree than he would like us to believe. Small wonder the City is reconciling itself to another interest rate rise sooner rather than later.

#### Windfall tax with a different name

rect, then the new restrictions on capital allowances announced in the Budget could cost the privatised utilities an extra £5bn. This. by an extraordinary coincidence, matches exactly the amount that Gordon Brown's windfall levy would raise.

Treasury officials are quick to deny suggestions that Mr Clarke has succeeded in imposing a windfall tax by the back door. Again it is mere coincidence that railways, ships, houses, shops, showrooms, hotels, offices and motor cars have been exempted from the harsher tax treatment meted out to assets with an "expected economic life

of more than 25 years. Who then does that leave? Ex the utilities mainly. Oh, and oil and drug companies, but they can afford it anyway.

There are two main differences between Mr Brown's windfall levy and Mr Clarke's less than elegantly framed adjustment to tax treatment of long-life assets. The first is that Mr Brown's is a one-off levy which raises the £5bn up front whereas Mr Clarke's is a rolling tax. The Treasury will not see the full £3bn until Sir Desmond Pitcher's great grandchildren are running United Utilities.

The second is that the tax base for Mr Clarke's change in allowances is likely to be a good deal narrower than Mr Brown's.

Labour wants to clobber as many utilities as the information superhighway is rolling out so fast that assets barely last a year, let alone 25 or more.

The same does not apply to gas pipelines. In fact, if anything, technology is helping them last even longer and, anyway, the tax-man is hardly likely to turn a blind eye were British Gas to alter its depreciation policy overnight from 40 years to 25 to escape the tax. The outlook for the mainstream utilities is bleak then. The windfall levy will come on top of the Clarke tax, for this is not one Labour will be in any hurry to repeal.

#### Oftel moves into the digital TV arena

The Department of Trade and Industry has given way, if only a little, to vociferous lobbying by British broadcasters about the regulation of digital television. Whether the concessions will be enough to ensure a level playing field in what is likely to be a huge and commercially lucrative market is another

matter. The DTI has given Oftel wide powers to regulate the "conditional access" technology that allows digital signals to be unscrambled in homes where subscribers have paid up. It to its tax cutting agenda, the Chancellor said.

Neither claim is true. In fact, the amount of tax in the economy is on a rising trend.

The Chancellor, as it turns out, did not labour wants to clobber as many utilities as it can get its hands on. The Clarke tax, on the other hand, appears to be targeted top box that can receive their signals. That

Most of us save to spend. Kenneth according to the forecasts published on Tues- something that bears more than a passing companies. BT will probably escape because companies wanted. Worried that Sky would flood the market with its own subsidised boxes months before any rival appeared on the digital scene, they requested that BSkyB be forced to licence its technology to all broadcasters, so that they could issue their own "smart cards," and manage their own subscriber lists, even if customers were using the Sky box. The idea was that that way, BSkyB wouldn't have access to com-mercially sensitive information about a rival broadcaster's subscribers.

Customers are not going to want to buy three boxes - one each for digital satellite. cable and terrestrial television. The "early mover" would therefore have a built-in advantage, especially if the pioneer also controlled the conditional access technology and had all the good programming.

In the name of free markets and a pref-erence for light regulatory burden, the DTI's Ian Lang didn't buy it. But he is allowing Oftel to regulate all aspects of conditional access, including subscription management and electronic programme guides. If Don Cruickshank, Oftel's director general, finds that BSkvB is abusing its gatekeeper role, then he would have recourse to remedies similar to those in use against BT, the dominant telecoms operator. The BBC and ITV could have done worse. Mr Cruick-shank has proved himself an effective and tough regulator in telecoms. Let's hope he can repeat his record in digital TV.

### SFO launches Wickes inquiry

Patrick Tocher

The Serious Fraud Office and the Metropolitan Police have launched an official investigation into the former senior
management of Wickes, the
The board of Wickessaid it had
been informed that an investi-DIY chain and builders' merchants group at the centre of a multi-million pound accounting being conducted by the SFO.

COMMENT

'He has delivered "

more of a spree than

believe. Small wonder

he would like us to

reconciling itself to

another interest rate

the City is

rise sooner

rather than later'

closed yesterday "for operational reasons", a spokeswoman at the SFO said. Nobody has been arrested and no search warrants have yet been executed, she added.

In a short statement the SFO said: "The present management of the company is co-op- pended ever since and are un-

quiries." The names of the for- year. mer senior managers at Wickes who are under investigation was not revealed.

The board of Wickes said it had gation into the activities of its former senior management was The company intends to

The inquiry began a week co-operate fully with these inago, but the news was only discan be made at this stage," it added in a brief statement. Henry Sweetbaum, Wickes'

former chairman and chief executive, resigned in June after disclosing that past profits were overstated. Shares in the company have been sus-

The SFO had come under increasing pressure in recent weeks to launch an investigation into the Wickes affair after a report commissioned by the company's new management from the accountancy firm Price Waterhouse and City lawyers Linklaters & Paines found that profits had been overstated by a total of £51m over the past six

In a letter to sent to shareholders last month Michael von Brentano, Wickes' new chairman, said the report confirmed "serious mismanagement" and "deliberate misrepresentation" of certain rebate and contribution arrangements with Wickes'

erating fully with the SFO's in- likely to be re-listed until next suppliers. It went on to say Mr Sweetbaum, as chairman and chief executive, was ultimately responsible for the group's policy on rebates. However, Wickes has stopped short of suing any former director, arguing such a move would be counter-productive.

Mr Sweetbaum has agreed to repay £720,000 of profit-related bonuses in return for Wickes agreeing not to take action against him. Under a similar arrangement former finance director Trefor Llewellyn, who now holds the same position at Caradon, the building materials group, paid back £485,000. Both men have firmly denied knowledge of the true nature of the rebate schemes. "

A third board member, administration director Michael Corner, also resigned without compensation and Wickes agreed to take no action against him. Mr Corner has been retained as a consultant to the

Another director. Stuart Stradling, resigned as finance director in October after Price Waterhouse and Linklaters had completed their investigation.

Two directors of Wickes' building supplies division have also resigned without compensation for loss of office. Mr von Brentano's letter said disciplinary proceedings involving further middle-ranking executives and more junior staff would be implemented "in due coarse".

Wickes has admitted that the SFO and the Department of Trade and Industry contacted the company in June when news of the profits scandal first broke.

Last night the DTI would neither confirm nor deny whether it was conducting its own investigation into Wickes.

It was also unclear if the SFO and police investigation would examine all the group's suppli-ers, a move which could destroy the business and put thousands of employees out of work.

News of the SFO and police investigation comes at an awkward time for Wickes as it tries to repair a battered balance sheet with a rescue rights issue of up to £40m.

Investors

consider

#### IN BRIEF

 House of Fraser lost its second senior executive in five months yesterday as the British retailer reorganised to beat widening losses. Richard Scott, the finance director, resigned. He follows the operations director. Tony Hancock, who left in June. The company's chief executive, John Coleman, appointed in April, plans to overhaul the 140-year-old business with store closures and changes to culture and management. "You can only change a company's culture by changing its people," Mr Coleman said. The company losses in the half year to July more than tripled to £13.6m from a loss of £4.3m a year earlier. The company blamed poor planning, unpopular goods and poor service. The shares fell 1p to 152p.

 Redland, the building materials company, warned yesterday that the strength of sterling had hit overseas profit, and fourthquarter continental sales outside Germany were slightly behind expectations. Redland's shares fell 29p, or 7.5 per cent, to 365p after comments by Rudolph Agnew, chairman, at an extraordinary general meeting. He said German profit margins had improved less quickly than expected. Analysts cut their forecasts for the full year to December from £295m to around £265m.

 The Accounting Standards Board sets out the recommended contents and measurement basis of interim reports in proposals published today. The proposal follows the Cadbury committee's call for clearer principles to be followed in the preparation of these statements and is designed to be a guide to best practice.

 British Biotech, the UK's leading biotechnology group, yesterday paved the way for its first product launch when it announced successful phase three results for its Lexipafant acute pancreatitis treatment. The drug, to be called Zacutex, showed positive rethe basis for a marketing authorisation application to the European Medicines Evaluation Agency, the company said. A similar trial in the US, due to be completed by mid-1997, will be used for an application to the Food and Drug Administration. Analysts' estimates of peak sales are around £200m to £300m for the drug. Biotech also announced that losses grew from £11m to £16.1m in the latest six months, but were "well within budget". Investment column, page 22

 The National Savings movement had its target contribution to public sector borrowing in the current financial year dramatically increased from £3bn net to £4.5bn, chief executive Peter Bareau said yesterday. The original target was set on 27 March but the National Savings has already raised £3.7bn net, with Pre-mium Bonds and Pensioners Bonds leading the way.

• A dramatic rise in the price of corn slashed profits at Tate & Lyle's US arm Staley, pushing group profits 11 per cent lower to £276.3m (£311.1m) in the year to September. Corn prices umped to their highest level at more than \$5 a bushel, twice the average price during the past 10 years. Earnings per share fell 11 per cent to 38.2p but a 6 per cent hike in the dividend to 17p, the 16th successive rise, helped the shares close 9p higher at 479p.

 Tour operators hope Customs & Excise will agree a transition period after the new penal rate of insurance premium tax equal to VAT takes effect on insurance sold by operators from April, so that insurance contracts negotiated with insurers can be honoured for the lifetime of brochures which have already been printed for 1997. If not, the price of insurance bought through tour operators will rise by up to 15 per cent in April, compared with an increase of 1.5 per cent on insurance sold by specialist brokers.

 Cater Allen Holdings, the financial group, has reached conditional agreement to sell its Cater Allen Futures arm to MeesPierson ICS for around £2.3m. It said Cater Allen's financial futures broking and execution activities would cease thereafter.

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Application has been made to the London Stock Exchange for all the Company's issued share capital currently traded on the Unlisted Securities Market to be admitted to the Official List. It is expected that Admission to the Official List will become effective and that dealing. will commence on 2 December 1996.

> Biocure Holdings plc (Registered in Scotland No. 88624)

Introduction to the Official List

Bell Lawrie White & Co.

Issued and fully paid

Ordinary Shares 50.000,000 £500,000.00 of lp each 36,457,745 £364,577,45

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29 November 1996 from the Company Announcements Office, The London Stock Exchange, The London Stock Exchange Tower, Old Broad Street, London EC2N 1HP, for collection only, and up to and including

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Brewin Dolphin Bell Lawrie Limited 5 Gilispur Street London EC(A 9BD)

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28 November 1996

### Sir Rocco plans hotel comeback

Paul Rodgers

Sir Rocco Forte is returning to the hotel industry with plans to build a £12m, five-star hotel in fast-growing Cardiff Bay just over a year after Granada launched its successful £3.8bn takeover bid for his family's

listed company. Construction on the as yet unnamed 120-bedroom hotel is scheduled to start next summer. and is due for completion the following year in time for the Rugby World Cup.

The move marks the end of Sir Rocco's attempts to buy back some of the hotels seized by Granada. Talks between the two antagonistic camps, including Sir Rocco's £1bn bid to recover Forte's elite hotels, were blamed for delaying the hotelier's re-emergence. When he conceded defeat in

February after one of the largest and most bitter takeover battles in recent UK corporate history, Sir Rocco ended with the vow: "I'll be back." His return is likely to be assisted by up to 13m in government grants un-der the Regional Selective Assistance programme and other similar schemes.

Rocco Forte Associates (RFA), the family's new private company, plans to set up a chain of 30 top-flight hotels in selected growth markets from Britain to Russia over the next five years. A second UK project in Glasgow is slightly ahead of the Cardiff hotel, but has yet to

build hotels, mostly in the UK, with existing properties in Germany, France and Italy, A purchase early next year would provide RFA with a cash

stream. "We're not trying to be the biggest hotel company in the world," said Richard Powell, Sir Rocco's right-hand man and RFA's marketing director. "But we'd like to set ourselves apart by having consistently highquality properties." The Fortes have been re-

thinking their hotel strategy much criticised during the Granada bid for its extravagance and low return on equity - and now plan to divorce luxury from the stuffiness that so often goes with it. Their new botels, however, will combine a butler on each floor with a chain-wide database tracking customers' idiosyncrasies.

High-tech systems will also be built into the rooms, allowing customers to check out without quening at reception and to call up stock information and com-

The Cardiff hotel will be the first of its calibre in Wales and the restaurant, to be leased or managed by a celebrity chef, will aim to win the principality's first

Most of the equity in the Cardiff hotel will be held by Sir Rocco and his relatives, particularly his sister and fellow RFA director Olga Polizzi. A small equity stake will go to Fiortho,



a start-up property company that will manage construction.

Back in business: Sir Rocco Forte's plan to build a hotel at Cardiff Bay marks the end of his attempts to buy back some of the hotels selzed by Granada Photograph: David Sandison

### Eurotunnel puts fire costs at £300m

#### Michael Harrison

The cost of last week's fire in the Channel Tunnel could reach nearly £300m, Eurotunnel disclosed yesterday. But it insisted the losses would largely be covered by insurance and would not jeopardise the deal to re-

structure its £8.7bn of debts. The estimate for the cost of the fire, given by Eurotumel chairman Patrick Ponsolle, is twice previous estimates and undeclines the seriousness of the incident and the length of time that services are likely to be re-

solle put the cost of repairing the tunnel and replacing the burnt-out freight shuttle at Fr300m-Fr600m (£35m-£69m). He also said that if passenger and freight services were only able to resume at 50-60 per cent of their previous capacity, it would mean a loss in revenue of Fr2bn (£230m) over 10

the ultimate loss borne by Eurotunnel would be only £5m-£7m. This is the amount £58m. Eurotunnel is liable to pay in nenalties to Eurostar in com-

through train services between London, Paris and Brussels. The announcement helped

guipment could cost £23m to 58m.

Revenues before the fire just under half it £8.70m of just representations at £1.5m a day but were running at £1.5m a day but nior bank debt for equity, loan shareholders.

pensation for the suspension of the would have risen strongly in the through train services between run-up to the Christmas and banks could emerge from the run-up to the Christmas and New Year period. There is still exercise owning 61 per cent of no firm date for when limited the tunnel. Robert Malpas, Eurotunnel's passenger and freight services newly-appointed co-chairman, will resume although Euronun-

said: "We do not see at this stage

that there needs to be any debe a matter of only days. Despite the prospect of the turnel not being back in full oplay in the restructuring of the debt. The creditor banks have eration until well into next summer's holiday season, Eurotunnel insisted it did not

banks and Eurotunnel's 750,000

wish us well." turing from all 220 creditor

#### rights idea Peter Rodgers Financial Editor Institutions and investment bankers are meeting tomorrow to discuss a new method of

raising equity capital, aimed at resolving a dispute raging in the City over the future of shareholders' pre-emption rights. Members of the National Association of Pension Funds and the Association of British Insur-

up by BZW to combine the best of US and British techniques. BZW proposes using US bookbuilding methods to market new shares to investors, while introducing a mechanism to preserve pre-emption rights for large investors - the obligation a company has to give first refusal on new shares to its ex-

ers will be briefed on plans drawn

Until now, bookbuilding and pre-emption rights have been seen as mutually exclusive, the main reason pressure for a move to US methods has been strongly resisted by investing institutions.

isting owners.

Big integrated investment banks say bookbuilding is a much cheaper way of raising capital than a rights issue because they can market the shares more widely, but this claim of cheapness is hotly disputed by more traditional merchant banks and by institutions. The institutions have yet to be convinced about the new BZW plan. However. Gra-

ham Allen, chairman of the investment committee of the NAPF, said: "We are going along with an open mind." Key uncertainties are whether fees will be higher with BZW's method and whether it is aimed solely at large investors and

would brush aside the pre-emp-

tion rights of small shareholders. Richard Regan of the Asso-ciation of British Insurers said: "Institutional investors would clearly be concerned to see that the pro-rata entitlement of all shareholders is adequately preserved and they will look care-

fully at the fee structures." The BZW proposals come weeks after a groundbreaking move by Schroders to cut the costs of traditional rights issues, by introducing a partial auction of the underwriting commissions. Defenders of rights issue hope cheaper commissions will deflect a threatened monopolies inquiry into the cost of rais-

reassure the financial markets and dealers marked Eurotumel shares up 5.5p to close at 81p. Eurotunnel has enough insurance to cover £173m worth of damage to equipment and up to £520m of lost revenues. The freight shuttle destroyed in the However, Mr Ponsolle said fire was worth £11.5m while repairs to the turnel and related equipment could cost £23m to

expect any delay to the debt re-

nel still says it is hopeful it will

been very understanding, they On current plans, it is expected to take until next March to get approval for the restruc-

### End to US problems should prove sweetener for Tate

After the profits warning in May, the 11 per cent fall in full-year profits in line with recent expectations, led at Tate & Lyle to £276m came as no to a similar fall in earnings per share surprise. The shares actually moved to 38.2p and did not prevent a 6 per up on the news, by 9p to 479p, as the market took the view that the 17p, the 16th year in succession of problems in the US that had led to a higher payout, during which time ings multiple of 12. Given the short-news to 370.5p, compared to a impact on the bottom line will not be felt until the next finencial year. a halving in the sugar and sweet-increases have averaged 12 per eners group's American profit were cent a year.

finally out of the way. Staley, Tate's at times troublesome US arm, suffered not surprisingly from a massive hike in the price of corn during the year to more than \$5 a bushel, the highest price in the 120 years records have been kept, and twice the average in re-

That problem was compounded by a low gasoline price which meant there was little demand for ethanol, an alternative fuel derived from corn, and the raw material price hike

modity markets, what goes up comes down again and the price of corn is back to normal levels. As is the nature of these things, the price of gasoline is on the up again too so last year's double hit has become this year's double boost.

The fall in profits, which was bang

Taking the long view, Tate is a wonderfully steady business, dull some might say, with a firm grip on the world's growing sweet tooth through the fructose products it supplies to the likes of Pepsi and Coca-Cola. Over the past 10 years or so, the shares have moved steadily ahead, although the performance against the market in the past five has been less inspiring.

Overcapacity continues to dog the industry and that will only slowly be £20.3m (£20.1m) in the six months which is growing at about 4 per cent Fluctuations like that are one of the perennial problems for a business as focused as Tate is on one commodity but, as with all commodity but, as well as a second to be a s diversify away from its mature US and European roots to prosper.

On the basis of forecast profits in the year to next September of a lit- accounted for more than a quarter tle over £300m, the shares currently of the group's £600m turnover in the trade on a prospective price-earn-first half. The shares fell 18p on the

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

term cyclical ups and downs, that's about right.

1996 high of 465p.

If truth be told, the shares were

#### Meyer slowly builds profits

Meyer International, the builders' merchant, picked a bad day to up-date investors on its slow and painful

A fractional pick-up in profits to unwound by demand for corn syrup, to September was overshadowed by a warning from Redland, the leadrealised early on that it needed to Deutschemark was burting profits.

All this served to remind the market of Meyer's exposure to Holland, another hard currency market which

to better demand for timber and months, the group has shed around building materials. It admits that any 700 jobs as part of a reorganisation

be felt until the next financial year. If truth be told, the shares were already under pressure before the launch just over 200 Jewsons outlets at PontMeyer, the Dutch subsidiary. Redland warning. Meyer can only is expected to completed by early in hope that the improvement in housing starts and transactions will lead than planned. Over the past 18

Tate & Lyle: at a glance Market value: 52.10bn, stare price 479p				
Five-year record			96 8	hare price pense
fornover (Ebm)	\$29. 27	4.07 . 45	Mar. 1	
re-tax profils Emi	190 223	274 311		0 11 11
arnings per sheri	26.2 32.7	37.1 42.1	38.2	

Some factors are working in Meyer's favour, notably the recovery in softwood prices, which helped lift profits at the forest products division to £7.2m from £6m. But the costs of installing a software system prompted brokers to trim their profit forecasts from £42m to just over £40m. That puts the shares on a forward PE of 18, an undeserved

#### Biotech closer to drug launch

British Biotech passed another milestone on the road to credibility yesterday as it announced plans which could see its first drug on the market by March 1998. The biotechnology group's launch prod-uct will not be Maximastat, the cancer "wonder drug", but Lexipafant, a potential treatment for pancreatitis to be renamed Zacutex. The of the decade. So with £192m net recent successful completion of the final phase three trials in the UK paves the way for the drug to be submitted for approval by the European Still speculative.

that has restored profitability at the timber and building materials

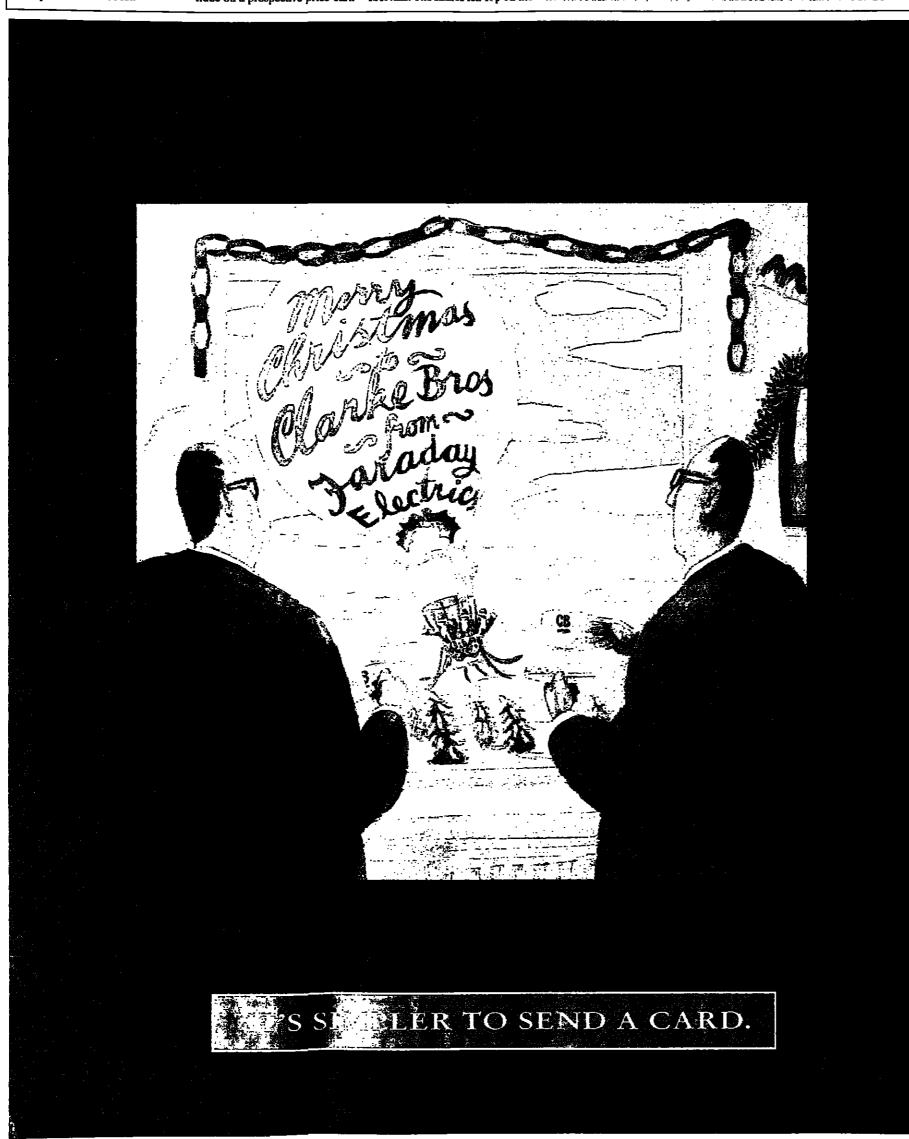
Medicines Evaluation Agency by March. A US application is ex-

pected later in the year. The news, alongside the announcement that half-year losses to October have grown from £11m to £16.1m, carried few surprises for the market, yet the shares picked un

0.5p to 223.5p yesterday As has become the norm with Biotech, that was a slightly perverse reaction as the only real surprises yesterday were negative. The group said it had decided to end development of Batimastat, the Marimastat-like drug which has failed to live up to high expectations, and warned that early results of phase two tri-als of BB-10010, a product to be used in conjunction with cancer chemotherapy treatment, were "not

encouraging".

But any lost business from these drugs pales by comparison with the £300m Marimastat could be generating by 2003, if estimates by NatWest Markets are right. Yesterday's news about Lexipafant helps underwrite expectations that the group will be in profit by the end cash to tide it through into the black. the risk in Biotech is increasingly operational, rather than financial.



If you run a small business and you'd like to say "Thank You" to your customers this Christmas, a card is the best way to get your message across.

It provides a nice personal touch that's warm and friendly without being over the top. And, unlike a business card which usually goes straight into the bottom of a drawer or the waste-paper bin, your card will be a thoughtful reminder of your services right up to Twelfth Night.

Post your cards (using our colourful festive stamps) and Royal Mail could help your company to

have a more prosperous New Year.

A card makes everyone's Christmas.



### Whitbread nets **Pizzaland** group for £46m

**Tom Stevenson** City Editor

Whitbread bought the Pizzaland group Brightreasons yesterday for £46m, much less than many observers had expected. The deal, which had been widely flagged, buys 180 high street sites in one fell swoop at a price per outlet that analysts said was

David Thomas, managing director of Whitbread's restaurant division and according to some the heir apparent to chief executive Peter Jarvis, said the deal gave Whitbread a strong position in the fastest area of the eating out market. It gave the company a large number of sites in which to expand its existing brands and took a major competitor out of the market.

Whitbread plans to expand Brightreasons' Bella Pasta chain, convert its Pizzaland sites into its own Pizza Hut format and sell 20 Pizza Piazza restaurants. Analysts predicted the sale of that chain would reduce the overall cost of the remaining 160 outlets to about £200,000.

According to figures from Mintel, the pasta segment of the eating out market is growing at between 25 and 30 per cent a year, more than three times as fast as the average growth in restaurant meals.

The price, nearer £43m after stripping out Brightreasons' net cash, was considered very cheap by analysts. One said he thought Bass might have been interested but its current attempts to get regulatory approval for its proposed takeover of Carlsberg-Tetley took it out of the running.



David Thomas: 180 high street sites in one fell swoop

Mr Thomas said he hoped the removal of Pizzaland would focus consumers' attention on service rather than the price promotions the company had used to maintain its market

Brightreasons was created after Michael Guthrie led a buyout from Grand Met before acquiring Pizza Piazza from Rank. An attempt to float the company two years ago was ahan-doned after its venture capital backers, MAM and Morgan Grenfell Asset Management, thought a trade sale would secure a higher price. It is understood the backers were unwilling to value the com-

pany at £70m. Early expectations were for a price tag of nearer £90m, ajthough that subsequently fell to between £50m and £60m. Whitbread is thought to have outbid City Centre Restaurants, which owns the Deep Pan Pizza and Garfunkels chains.

#### Fleming makes Manser chairman

Jili Treanor Banking Correspondent

John Manser, who was appointed the first chief executive of the privately-owned Robert Fleming investment bank in 1990, is to become chairman next April when Robin Fleming, 64, retires. William Garrett, head of the bank's securities operation,

will take over as chief executive. Mr Manser became chief executive in May 1990 when the bank split the roles of the chairman and he had always expected to become chairman on Mr Fleming's retirement. "Seven years as chief executive is long enough to implement a strategy," Mr Manser said.

He has steered the bank away from investment banking in the US and built up its equities operations.

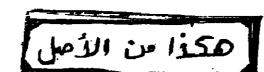
The bank is not a quoted company and about 35 per cent

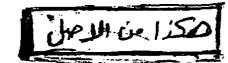
active role in the running of the bank. The bank yesterday reeased results for the six months to 30 September showing a 16 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £92.2m. It increased its in-

terim dividend from 7p to 8p. Mr Manser said Jardine Fleming, the bank's joint venture in Hong Kong, had contributed 27 per cent to profits. Jardine Fleming was hit by scandal in August after Imro, the investment regulator, slapped a £700,000 fine on the firm after discovering that Colin Armstrong, a Hong-Kong based fund manager, had been benefiting personally from deals

he executed for clients, Jardine Fleming recorded a net trading profit of \$82m (£49m) in the first half, up 28 per cent. But its net interim profit was marginally down on last year's \$63.9m. Mr Manser said the operation had been givof its shares are held by family en a "clean bill of health" since members, two of whom take an the regulatory action.

	Compa	ny Resul	ts	
	Tereover £	Pre-tax €	EPS	Dividend
Author Industrial (I)	11.9m (12.8m)	1.3m (1.9m)	4.4p (8.9p)	1.75p (1.75p)
Clartetia Graup (I)	9.8m (8.4m)	256,000 (33,000)	0 7p (0.14p)	· (-)
Crafatres Greep (F)	48.5m (32.8m)	2.6m (4.9m)	9.8p (21.6p)	9p (9p)
Kowiii Sytlems (I)	19.8m (16.6m)	3.2m (2.6m)	17.5p (14.6p)	3.6p (3p)
Meyer Internetional (1)	599.4m (638.4m)	20.3m (20.1m)	10.6p (10.3p)	4.2p (4.2p)
New London Capital (1)	- (-)	1.69m (1.59m)	1.89p (1.78p)	1.0p (1.0p)
Oriental Rectaurant (I)	3.3m (1.9m)	531,000 (318,000)		1.00
Yate & Lyle (F)	5.16bn (4.45ba)	276.3m (311.1m)	40.5p (49.7p)	17p (16p)
fing - Final (1) - Interim.	/ID - Mos months		<u></u>	· · b ( rob)





### market report/shares

#### Data Bank FTSE 100 4049.2 -19.2 FTSE 250 4412.0 -11.4 -FTSE 350 2009.1 -8.6

SEAQ VOLUME

720.7m shares,

Gilts Index

94.73 -0.10

38,722 bargains

Share spotlight

Share price, pence

Smithkline

In a bid to blow away a Budget hangover the stock market had to fall back on that tried and trusted standby, takeover

SmithKline Beecham, the drugs group, was wheeled forward as the unsuspecting vic-tim. Its shares jumped 29.5p to 808.5p as stories flowed from Switzerland via New York that Roche, the big Swiss group, was seeking to put to-gether credit facilities ahead of a strike.

Roche is cash-rich. But it would be severely stretched to accommodate SmithKline. which would cost in the region

There is little doubt Roche is anxious to expand; it has been largely overshadowed by the creation of a new Swiss drugs power, the result of the giant merger between Sandoz

Zeneca has for long been the

get. The sudden attention di-rected at SmithKline knocked 11p from its shares at 1,667.5p. Even so it is valued at £15.8bn.

The determination to prevent the market sinking into a post-Budget malaise also prompted selective buying of financials. For long the market has nursed a vague story that Abbey National and Prodential Corporation are made for each

The two have made no secret of their desires to expand. On the surface such a merger makes sense, although egos could present a problem. Abbey gained 1p to 685.5p, a peak, and Pru firmed to 481.5p. Lehman Brothers re-

gards Pru as a buy and talks about the pressure on the group to make an acquisition. As if looking at Abbey, it says: "We are of the opinion that a high street presence is viewed as inevitable but we are

equally convinced the man-



MARKET REPORT DEREK PAIN

Rumours boost SmithKline as Footsie suffers hangover

agement will not overpay". Commercial Union, the subject of the Budget day takeover story, fell 8p to 667p and other composites gave ground. M&G, the unit trust group, put

on 22.5p to 1,135p. The market's initial response to what was a disappointing and dull Budget was a 16.6 Pootsie jump to 4,085.0 points. But the effort proved too much. With New York slightly lower overnight and failing to muster much enthusiasm yesterday, blue chips struggled to find support, with Footsie ending 19.2 down at 19.40 and 1 4,049.2p. Talk of further interest rate increases was an-

stock market reporter of the year Second and third-liners re-mained in the doghouse with blue chips again attracting a disproportionately large chunk

of the action. The Budget squeeze on capital allowances hit the utilities. British Gas also had to contend with the Shell bid denial: the shares fell 10p to 221p. Dixons, at one time down

17.5p on the warranty moves, ended with a 3p fall at 547.5p. Kingfisher lost 4p to 620.5p and Thorn 10.5p to 273.5p.

Bass drooped 20p to 790.5p on the alcopop blitz and the smaller whisky producers responded to the tax cut with modest gains. The spirit giants modest gains. The spirit giants,

however, gave ground.

T&N jumped 32p to 176.5p as it moved to cap its asbestos liabilities; Merrill Lynch sees my, a telephone systems the shares moving to 275p. BOC rose 8.5p to 900p with SBC Warburg suggesting a 970p target price.

Orange, the mobile tele-

phone group, hovered at 178p; Nikko thinks around 20op would be a reasonable level. Redland's surprise profit

warning lowered the staires 30p to 364.5p, causing grief to RMC, off 22p at 971.5p. Plasterboard maker BPB fell 10.5p to 349p.
Storehouse continued to feel the impact of the Barclays de Zoete Wedd sell advice, falling a further 7.5p to 261p.

a 12-month low. Bluebird, the toys group, slipped 4p to 186p. Merrill sees profits this year down from £17.8m to £10.6m but has lifted next year's forecast by £1m to £14.3m. Despite its share buyback the company

Future Integrated Telephony, a telephone systems group, closed at 125p from its 115p

placing: Charterhouse Com-munications, placed at 5p, ended at 6p. Internet Technology, the Global Internet group, improved 6p to 49.5p. It is the latest to link with Microsoft. The company is one of the more unusual AIM constituents, us-

ing property assets to build a

high-tech operation. It arrived as a residential property company, Capital & Western. Then, in a reverse deal, it was taken over by Global, run by Jan Murray, founder of the PC World chain of computer stores, which is now part of Dixons, and Lau-

rence Blackall. As part of the deal another property company, Ballynatray, was absorbed. Inter-Tech shares ap-

proached 70p last month.

Three groups are due to make their debuts today. Advance Power Components. placed at 70p by Henry Cooke Lumsden, could top 80p. In its last year it made profits of £1.32m from sales of £6.1m. Recycling Services is expected from its 90p placing and Car

Group, a second-hand car re-

tailer, is likely to motor a few

□Woodstock, a pub and restaurant chain, has been suspended on Ofex at 15p. lt raised £600,000 through Austin Friars Securities in July by floating shares at 20p. The suspension follows "cer-

]Eusdag, the Brossels based European electronic stock market, started operations British software company, the first recruit.

tain financial irregularities".

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nakes chairman

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Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yatid is last year a divident grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price-earnings (P.E.) ratio as the share price divided by last year a commiss per share, excluding exceptional terms. Other: details, if Ex. ingritis a Excellentia Ex. as u. Unissed Securities Market is Suspended pp Parity Paul pm Na Paul Shares. † AMI Stock.

Source: FT Information The rides allows you to access real-time share prices by phone from Seaq. Simply dol 0891 123 335, followed by the 4-digit code printed next to each share. To access the latest triancal reports dia! 0891 1233 followed by one of the two-digit codes below. FTSE 10C - Real-time 00
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Tokyo Market 21 Anyone with a tone-dial telephone can use this service. For a detailed description Calla cost 50p per minule (daytime), 45p per minute at all other times. Call ch 190000 ASOA Group 100060 Disons 100000 Lisyds TSB 100000 BT FTSE 100 Index hour by hour Textiles & Apparel

### Vendome blames weak yen for 5% drop in profits

**Tom Stevenson**City Editor

Vendome Luxury Group, whose upmarket brands include Dunhill, Cartier and Mont Blanc, said yesterday that decreased tourist spending lay behind a 5 per cent drop in first-half profits. The weakening of the yen was blanned for sluggish trading in the company's important Far Eastern markets.

Joseph Kanoui, chairman, said: "The reduction in tourist had looked for between £125m spending in the Far East is, we believe, a short-term phenomenon which will reverse when the yen recovers in strength. The cent owned by South Africansecond half of last year was affected by unfavourable events. ties, was set up three years ago

Chris Godsmark

**Business Correspondent** 

The hostile takeover battle for

Mid Kent Water, one of the 19

smaller drinking water compa-

nies, escalated yesterday when

the group announced it was al-most doubling the dividend

Mid Kent Holdings, the par-ent company, revealed an 8.4

per cent drop in half-yearly

pre-tax profits to £4.9m but said

it was raising its interim divi-deed from 6.25p to 12p, a 92 per

cent increase. The dividend

will cost £2m, more than half the

value of the profit after tax has

The company also forecast its

Mid Kent has called a "step

change" in its dividend payout in 1995, when it surged by 90 per

Geoff Baldwin, chief execu-

tive, denied the dividend hike

was a device to persuade share-

management. The group is

been deducted.

payout to its shareholders.

again, performance in the remainder of the year will show increases in turnover and operating profits."

Pre-tax profits in the six months to September were £113m, struck from marginally higher sales of £704m. Part of the 4.6 per cent decline in profits was attributed to a fall in interest income from £5.7m to

Vendome's profits fell short of market expectations, which and £135m. The company's shares fell 8p to close at 532.5p.

Vendome, which is 70 per controlled Richemont Securi-Provided they do not occur as part of a reorganisation of the

Mid Kent steps

up takeover battle

nesses of Compagnie Financiere Richemont, Dunhill Holdings and Rothmans In-

Speculation was quashed in the summer that Richemont was poised to buy in the 30 per cent of Vendome's shares that it did not own. Two years ago it bought in the minority in Rothmans, the tobacco business it had demerged from the Vendome luxury goods operation a year previously.

Sales of jewellery in the first half fell 17.4 per cent and sales of leather goods, which mostly depend on demand in the Far East, fell by 2.3 per cent.

reported and writing instrument sales increased by 1.7 per cent over last year. Perfume sales soared by 20.4 per cent but menswear sales were down.

Cartier, founded in Paris in 1847, has 164 retail outlets and provides an estimated 80 per cent of group profits. The group said it had made significant investments in the first half to boost its retail and wholesale network and in advertising new products. It is building a factory in France for leather goods.

The Far East dominates sales of Vendome's luxury goods, accounting for 40 per cent of to-

#### tal turnover. Sales in the Americas increased by 10 per Watches performed more cent while European markets strongly with a 10.4 per cent rise were flat.

UBS board under

Jal Treanor Banking Correspondent

this year. BK Vision, which has a 10 per

cent stake in UBS, is a regular

critic of the bank and has been

involved in a two-year legal

wrangle over the bank's pro-

posals to unify its share structure. Kurt Schiltknecht, director

of BK Vision in Zurich, said yes-

terday: "Given the facts which

are now known, we thought it

would be necessary for the

Normally the people at the top

He specifically pointed to

Nikolaus Senn, former chair-

man and now honourary chair-

current chairman and former

chief executive.

are responsible for the strategy.

The largest shareholder in Union Bank of Switzerland is calling for the resignation of the bank's board after its announcement on Tuesday of a SFr3bn (£1.4bn) provision for bad debts which will drive it to an estimated loss of SFr500m

Mr Baldwin said: "This is not

However, a spokeswoman dividend for the full year would for the two French predators be at least 25 per cent higher said: "It's the poor old custhan the previous year. The intomers who seem to be left out crease comes on top of what

Mid Kent also revealed it had so far spent £1.3m on its MMC defence. Mr Baldwin said: "We may be relatively small but size isn't a factor when you are go-ing to the MMC. The questioning is similar so we think holders to back the existing we've been pretty efficient in the

approach by two French utilities groups, Saur and General Utilities, which own neighbouring South East Water and Folkestone and Dover Water. The dispute, which has be-

come increasingly acrimonious in recent weeks, is being investigated by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, which is due to complete its inquiry on 9 December.

window-dressing because of the underlying profitability of our business. But we are telling shareholders to stay with us be-cause our performance is improving.

way we've spent the cash."

9949888889499

65.88 47.29 30.81 184.55 22.81 184.55 22.81 184.55 44.55 184.57 1  pressure to resign push into commercial loans which eventually resulted in

the bad debt problem. "I hope some of the board will have some courage [and resign]," Mr Schiltknecht said. A spokeswoman for the bank said it had taken note of the comments but declined to comment further on the claims.

UBS, one of the last remaining triple-A rated banks, risks losing its top-notch status after Standard & Poor's put it on CreditWatch with negative implications after learning of the bad debt provision.

Mr Schiltknecht said he thought too much was made of this threat. "The strategy of accumulating capital to be a strong bank is not in the interest of shareholders. People are giving board of directors to step down. too much weight to ratings."

As a result of the legal action brought by BK Vision two years ago, UBS is still waiting to alter its two-tier capital and share structure of bearer and regisman, and Robert Studer, tered shares. One of the aspects of this system is that it restricts any single shareholder to exert He saw these two as the dri- no more than 5 per cent of votving force behind the bank's ing rights.

president of marketing at Morgan Grenfell Asset Management, whether willingly she is unprepared to say. As if MGAM hasn't got enough problems already, letters have

News reaches me of an amus-ing little prank being perpe-trated in the name of Hillary

O'Sullivan, executive vice-

been dispatched on MGAMheaded paper to all kinds of important people in the City suggesting that MGAM's German masters intend to rename Winchester House, Morgan Grenfell's City head office, "Deutsche Plaza".

Worse, for the letter is really quite convincing, Deutsche in-tends to lobby the Corporation of London to change the name of Great Winchester Street, where the building stands, to 'Great Giessen Street". Giessen, a town in Germany, is winned with Winchester in

Dear oh dear.

The letter has been sent to a number of people with offices next to Morgan Grenfell's pile, which is in the

process of being rebuilt. "In part due to this new headquarters building, the prominence of other German banks in the direct vicinity, i.e. Commerzbank, Bayerische Vereinsbank, Westdeutsche Landesbank and Dresdner Bank, together with the desire to recognise the growing importance to Ger-man financial institutions of London as a European financial capital, we are proposing to apply to the City Corporation to change the name of Great Winchester Street," the letter says.

hoax. Surely it's not April yet is it? All the same it seems a pity, as this renaming lark might have some merit. Kleinwort Benson, now owned by Dresdner Bank, could no doubt be convinced of the merits of renaming Fenchurch Street to its German equivalent. I translate -SumpfKirchStrasse. Now that's much better isn't it.

The letter is, in fact, a

Virgin boss Richard Branson

### Winchester House goes Deutsche PEOPLE & BUSINESS

Peter Birch, chief executive of Abbey National, goes abseiling 250 feet down Central Business Exchange in Milton Keynes to

raise money for charity. "He was totally fearless," says an awed

Mr Birch's descent was in aid of the BBC Children in Need

appeal. The chief executive has gone abseiling before, five years

ago for the Telethon Appeal, when he lowered himself down the side of Abbey House in London's Baker Street.

1970s fancy dress competition judged by Brian Poole of the Tremeloes. Now just hang on. Readers of a certain age will remember the Tremeloes' peerless hit "Silence is Golden" from 1967 – so shouldn't it have been a 1960s party? I await

Abbey National recently held other charity events, including a

spokesman. "He did it three times. He was raring for more."

April Fool's Day comes early as

is obviously not so alive to German sensibilities, Last night Mr Branson launched his new record company, tastefully titled "V-2".

Perhaps Mr Branson has correctly judged British atti-tudes. One of the Southwest's new gas companies has just changed its name because

it's American owners are worried it sounds too German. Amerada Hess has spent years trying to break into the market with little success, despite its "foot in the door"

sales methods. Now the "Hess" has been quietly dropped. The American management realised that

many potential consumers thought the company was German, and that "Hess summoned up images of Rudolph Hess, one of Adolph Hitler's henchmen.

Next time you need help filling out your football pools coupon, pop into a branch of Midland Bank. A couple of its employees have just won the top two places in an annual sporting challenge where they had to predict the outcome of 25 major sporting

events - a year ahead. Last night Olympic medalist Jonny Searle presented first prize to Rob Walker, head of the Financial Institutions Group at Midland's Poultry head office in the City. The Erust & Young Insolvency and Recovery Service Sporting Challenge attracted over 500 entries from London's financial community.

Runner-up was Graham Harman of Midland, who scored the same number of points as Mr Walker, 132 out

The tie-breaker was decided on who came closest to guessing this year's finishing time for the Oxford and Cam-

bridge boat race. Mr Harman's prize, the lucky swine, is "an expenses paid trip to watch the Ireland v England rugby match in Dublin in February." I'd book the following week off work now if I were you, Graham.

Many City economists, poised to make instant analyses of Tuesday's Budget, faced a potentially disastrous short-age of Red Books after the Chancellor sat down.

The Financial Statement and Budget Report contains far more detail than the speech, and is vital to a considered view. Despite this Crédit Suisse First Boston didn't get any Red Books. Morgan Grenfell did, but inhouse economist Steve Bell says he heard that a lot of other houses didn't.

John Willcock

of the most recent managers' re

Foreign Exchange Rates	Interest Rates	Liffe Financial Futures	Industrial Metals London Metal
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### sport

Murray's

### Hennessy hopes await pilot checks

RICHARD EDMONDSON

It is a good job there are a lot Grey Monk, has been confirmed of Irish jockeys to choose from because the saddle occupiers from across the water are going down by the day in the run up to Saturday's Hennessy Gold Cup at Newbury. Mark Dwyer joined his countryman Lorcan Wyer in the infirmary yesterday when suffering a heavily bruised arm at Hexham, while the nation's leading jockey, Tony Mc-Coy, is already out of the weekend's competition through suspension.

Mick Fitzgerald (Irl) is spoiled for options in the Hennessy and will switch to Midnight Caller if the ground is too firm for Belmont King, while Adrian Maguire (Irl) is still partner David Nicholson's Bil-lygoat Gruff, who needs good phy's Gold Cup by Richard still a trace of vitriol flying House at season's outset was the Dunwoody (N Irl), but he is around. When Bridgwater departure of a man who appartner David Nicholson's Bil-

to soft ground at the hardest waiting to partner Alderbrook, refers to his old employer these (the going firmed up to good who will contest Newcastle's days he seems to drop the Mr

While the market leader, The as a runner in the hands of Tony Dobbin (N Irl), Gordon Richards suggested yesterday that his yard will almost certainly also be represented by Un-guided Missile if a suitable rider can be found. Dwyer would be a consideration, providing he recovers from yesterday's fall which at first seemed to have caused a fracture to his upper left arm. An X-ray examination later revealed that the injury was not as serious as first feared and Dwyer will consider returning to

the saddle today. news about the pilot for the second favourite, Challenger Du Luc. Martin Pipe's gelding was ridden to success in the Mur-

Fighting Fifth Hurdle on Saturday if an inspection on Friday determines the course is riding on the soft side of good. Word on the street is that the seat on Challenger Du Luc may now go to Norman Williamson (Irl).

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Dark Nightingale (Uttoxeter 3.15) NB: Circus Star (Uttoxeter 3.45)

Pipe has been without a stable jockey since David Bridgwater jumped ship at the beginning of the season, a sep-There is also no concrete ews about the pilot for the second favourite, Challenger Dn aration the jockey talks of in terms of being rescued from Beelzebub's knuckles. The precise reason for the fissure has yet to emerge, though there is

from the beginning of his name. Money may have been one problem. It is said that Pipe does

not believe in the retainer system but this is nonsense. He thinks a stable jockey ought to be paying him for the guaran-tee of bucketfuls of winners As Bridgwater was once stationed on the Flat at Newmar-

ket's Eve Lodge and the Lester

Piggott Institute of Fiscal Stud-

ies, it may be that financial con-

cord was difficult to reach. Certainly, Bridgy is famously stingy with his folly. Pipe now selects from several in the weighing room and it is a policy he enjoys. "We're very well off at the moment and using the best available seems to be working," he said yesterday. More damaging still to Pond

to the yard by grief. Darren Mercer, who lost Draborgie and Mack The Knife in the space of a horrible 40 minutes at the Cheltenham Festival earlier this year, has decided to spread his horses, including the hugely gifted Banjo and Escartefigue, among other trainers. "I was totally surprised when I found out," Pipe said. "I had bought him some very nice horses and they're sure to go on and win stacks of races."

peared to have been cemented

Many of Mercer's horses were purchased in France and it is ironic that Pipe may now erase the memory of the split with the owner with another beast from the Continent, Challenger Du Luc. "When we saw him at the sales he was a lovely horse, a real athlete and a big, strong sort who looked as though he could handle himself well," the trainer said. "We had to buy him."

Pipe has been copied by other trainers, and his methods and thoughts continue to be duplicated. This will be of particular cheer to the chap who runs Pipe's local video-endoscopy shop. The trainer has recently invested in a piece of apparatus which delivers a virtual-reality ride into a horse's guts. This gadgetry will help in early detection of illness and it may be that, in 12 months time, no good stable will be without one. Despite the tremois at

Importing horses from

France is just one area in which

Nicholashayne, there has been no deterioration in Pipe's performance. At the end of play vesterday, he had recorded 85 winners, 50 ahead of his near-In addition, the man who

once become so exasterated with the press that he took professional advice on how to deal with them, now, at 51, land.



Pipe: now more relaxed

seems a far more relaxed figure with the Fourth Estate. He will be an even mellower figure if Challenger Du Luc gives him his third Hennessy to follow those of Strands Of Gold

(1988) and Chatam (1991). If he does so, the six-year-old will become the first horse to complete the Murphy's (formerly Mackeson) and Hennessy double since 1980 and Bright Highway. He, like just about all the participants on Saturday, had his origins in Ire-

ning horses and they are getting

- 7 decimad -BETTRE: 5-4 Greenback, 2-1 Ramalish, 6-1 Waxee Waxder, Joviel Man 20-1 Calleva Star, 33-1 Bacworthy Lord, 50-1 Paddy Burke

2.55 OAK NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) £5,000 added 2m 1f

1 11106 SHAHRARI (10) (0) 11 Pec 4 11 10 R Hagues

2 01-11 ROSENCRATIZ (14) (CD) Max V Hakuris 4 11 5 R Johnson

3 0-20143 HAY DANGE (11) PHORES 5 10 6 GT OFFICE (12) PHORES

4 04640 PRINCE DE BERRY (103) 6 Pem 5 10 0 P Holley

5 5F0 STUDIO THRITY (21) C Smith 4 10 0 P Holley

6 365 MILLEROFT RIMERA (22) R Aver 5 10 0 P Honley (3)

6 Milleroft 10st. True hurdless weights: Prince De Serry Set &5, Sudo Thirty, Addition Rivers 9st 25.

do Thirty, Asilismin Phiners Str 12b. BETTRIC: 8-11 Rosencrantz, 3-1 Shahmani, 7-2 Hay Dance, 20-1 Prince de Berry, 33-1 Studio Tairty, Millicroft Rhdera

3.25 MENDIP PLYWOOD HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £7,000 added 3m

#### death adjudged accidental Boxing

A Glasgow court ruled vesterday that no one was to blame for the death of James Murray, who suffered fatal brain in-

juries during a British ban-tamweight title fight last year. The judge, James Murphy, cleared Murray's opponent. Drew Docherty, of any fault, praised the medical help Murray received at ringside and said that a riot in the hall had not hampered medical personnel getting to the injured boxer.

Murphy, delivering his judge-ment after a three-day inquiry. said Murray's death on 13 October, 1995, was the result of an accident. Murray, a 25-year-old Scot, collapsed just seconds be-fore the end of his contest with fellow countryman Docherty at Glasgow's Hospitality Inn. Television viewers saw Mur-

ray tumble to the floor and fans. unaware of the tragedy in the ring, ricked at the back of the hall but we are still able to support 59 racecourses and 1,150 fixin protest at the way the fight tures. People are enjoying run-

ended in Docherty's favour. No single blow from Docherty could be pinpointed as the punch which caused the fatal brain injury, the judge said. "No blame attaches to amone," he said. "The evidence both of the neurosurgeon and the pathologist is that the haemorrhage suf-fered by Murray was so massive from the time it occurred that

nothing was going to save his life." Herol Graham was relieved to have got his comeback out of the way with a comfortable points victory over the durable and awkward American Terry Ford in Sheffield on Tuesday night. But his former manager, Brendan Ingle, was not impressed.

Ingle and Graham eampaigned together through two world title attempts as well as in successful British, European and Commonwealth championship efforts, but their relationship is now over.

"The worst thing you can have at this stage is people slapping you on the back and saying you've done well," said Ingle, now better known as Naseem Hamed's manager and trainer.

"I might be wrong, but I think there was nothing there: he should not be fighting in my opinion. I get my living from this game and my advice is to pack it in."

#### World's élite to compete at Olympia

**Equestrianism** GENEVIEVE MURPHY

Competitors for the Olympia Show Jumping Championships. which run from 18 to 22 December, will include three members of Germany's victorious Olympic team - Ulrich Kirchhoff (the individual gold medallist). Ludger Beerbaum and

Franke Sloothaak. Also competing are Alexandra Ledermann, the Olympic bronze medallist from France, Peter Charles, who is Ireland's reigning European champion. and all the leading Britons, including the Olympic team of Geoff Billington, Nick Skelton

and the two Whitaker brothers. With all but two of the top 19 riders in the world rankings taking part, Olympia will have a far classier field of show jumpers than any other British meeting. The show includes a Volvo World Cup qualifier on the Saturday afternoon and a new event, the Christmas Masters on the Thursday evening, in which the four qualifying riders will be jumping for a possible winner-takes-all prize of £21,000.

Olympia now has a total of 19 sponsors, including seven newcomers, and a prize fund of £220,000 - £10,000 more than last year. Over 70 per cent of the tickets have already been sold. so full houses are anticipated for virtually every session.

This is a far cry from the in-augural show of 1972, when only 300 advance tickets were sold and an elephant was led along Kensington High Street to give the fixture some much-needed publicity. To celebrate the Olympia show's 25th year, the King's Troop and Household Cavalry will be staging a joint display for the first time.

THE INDEPENDENT RACING SERVICES 0891 261 + UTTOXETER 971 981 CARLISLE 972

### 'Not all gloom and doom' as Ricketts replies to critics of Budget strategy

ecutive of the British Horseracing Board, who, along with the BHB's chairman, Lord Wakeham, has come under fire for the failure to secure a reduction in general betting duty in Tuesday's Budget, replied yesterday to the

UTTOXETER

12.45 Sierra Bay

1.45 Squire Silk

2.15 Rangitikei

GOING: Good.

1. T. W.

**HYPERION** 

GOLVEC: 1900a.

■ Lett-hand course, Burt-in of 170yd.

■ Course SE of town nr B5017. Uncorrect station (Derby-Crewe line) adjoins course. AD-MISSHON: Chih 515 (OAP-512); Tattersulls 510 (OAP-527); Course \$3, CAR PARK: Pree.

■ LEADING TRAINERS WITH EUNNERS: M Pipe — 38 winners from 143 runners gives a success ratio of 25.0% and a loss to a \$1 keep stake of \$16.60; K Balley — 25 winners, 103 runners, 24.3%, +59.48; D Nicholson — 21 winners, 79 runners, 25.6%, +54.44; N Twiston-Davies — 18 winners, 94 runners, 19.1%, -\$3.34.

+34.44; N Twiston-Davies — 18 winners, 94 rumers, 19.1%, -52.34.

LEADING JOCKETS: R Dunwoody — 37 winners, 150 rines, 23.3%, -547.20; J Onborne — 26 winners, 87 rides, 23.9%, +554.22; A Magaire — 24 winners, 112 rides, 11.4%, +57.05; N Williamson — 23 winners, 136 rides, 16.7%, -514.78.

VISORED FIRST TIME: Sheath Ketash, Turry (3.45, 16.7%, -514.78.)

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Domappel (3.15) won at Warwick on Thursday.

LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Cadongold (3.15) & Always Happy (3.45) have been sent 175 miles by B Pic from Nicholashnyne, Devon; Harwell Lad (2.45) sent 168 miles by B Almer from Proop, Dorset; Needle Match (3.45) sent 160 miles by J J O'Neill Irom Stekton Wood End, Cambria.

12.45 JOHN STUBBS MEMORIAL NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m Penalty Value £2,579

- 16 declared -BETTING: 11-10 Segmentino, 5-2 Sierza Bay, 5-1 ionio, 8-1 Sementii, 10-1 Bolin Frank, 12-1 Star

This has the same look as yestarday's opener at Chapstow with Sammertimo playing the part of Daraydan and SEERRA BAY being Mighty Moss. The true whiter-game performer came out on top and Sterra Bay can do likewise. Siema Bay has not run since his bumper second to Perfect Pol at Ascot in April of last year, but Other Sherwood rates the gelding high-

ong to Perfect Pol at Ascot in April of last year, but Oliver Sherwood rates the gelding highly and has been pleased with the progress made during the gelding's next. Semmartion is Whalid Abdulla's first numer over jumps and David Nicholson reports that the son of Salse has schooled nicely. And when a good thing he would be on his 1996 Boor win and his lattest head second to Celenc at Newmarket. The others look up against it, including Bollin Frank, a fair sont on the level with out in the ground but he pulled much too hand at Sadge-field on his debut and is not certain to stay on pedigree. Ioxilo was smart on his day on the Pot and this ex-Cive Britain performer may do better then Star Selection, who was besten a long way by Advance East on his furnies debut at Haydock. Selection: SIERRA BAY

1.15 JOHN PARTRIDGE ENGLISH CLOTHING SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS 6) £2,450 added 2m Penalty Value £1,931.

HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,450 added 2m Penaity Value £1,931

1 0.20 SHRITLECCK (7) M/S N Mexaulty M/S N Mexaulty 5 11 20 Carls Webb (5)

2 24/3222 EULOY (FR) (249) (Cregate Contanens) N Burke 9 11 7 A Methol (5)

3 5350/2 DOCLAR (USN (19) (60) M/S Luca Farmer P Calcut 9 11 6 C C 070-yer

4 POS-2-06 LINE STREET BLUES (28) (Crelenton Roong Lid C Brooks 5 11 5 S Bradley B

5 34-0-05 SAYMORE (18) (0) P More & G Franci W Cox 10 10 13 S Wysne

5 D13P-P5 JUST FOR A REASON (1-4) [D) IR Judes R Judes 4 10 12 W Mestica

6 D13P-P5 JUST FOR A REASON (1-4) [D) IR Judes R Judes 4 10 12 W Mestica

7 4115QP APPLIANCE(FSCHENCE (SSG (9) NO Warrer N Warrer B 10 5 J Ryan

8 GSU-6 QAMBERY (20) (Four-vise C Charge (24) M/S L Suidal 4 10 3 R Darmout)

9 0/POP-2 IOSMAN (11) (D) M/SS E J Wright) P Hoyerd 8 10 2 A Megice

10 000-POP QUICK DECISION (13) PAS-E M Cressed D Cressed 5 10 0 N T Egen (7)

11 0/FP2P JADY WARDLEA (467) (N Barret N Trivite 10 10 0 N E Referred 
Minimum weight: 10s. Thus handless weights Quick Decision 9st 12th. Ledy Mindja Ser 3th.

ESTINGS 7-2 Enlogy, 4-1 Dooler, 5-1 Kenhan, 6-1 Canteny, 7-1 Just Por A Resson, Quick Decision, 8-1 Shriftecock, 10-1 others

1995: Princettorpe 8 10 1 T J Marphy 20-1 R R Cambelge) 12 ian

FORMS GUIDE

1995: Princettorpe 8 10 1 T J Murphy 20-1. Its R Cambridge 12 ian FORM GUEDS.

The market leaders look to be Kastains and Opdition, who both have a low weight and ridden by Adnan Maguire and Richard Dunwoody respectively. The choice at a price is SAY-MORE, who did not do-much when ricely backed in Burdington Sam's selber at Luciow lest time. He is worth another chance on this better ground and some promise was shown be foreigned in the Bangor race won by Cassio's Boy. Kashan was 7th out of the handicap when a 33-1 second to Sprintisyre at Fortwell 11, days ago. He should be fater for that fat run for eight morths and the yard is senous, butting up Maguine. Oskbury may be sailed by this shorter trip after his breat fourth to Alweys Greener have. He also has a fine chance on the First second at Nottingham in August when besen a neck by Sharp Gastian in 223-runner saler. Crarite Brooks does not have too many numers in sellens so tiles Street Blook, second to Etenchiand here when trained by Simon Christian in May, must have a chance offer two runs in better races. Shuttlectoek, talked off over a longer trip at Warmick last time, does not look up to defying the weight, but Doeler can be considered in this grade after his second to Yubrasee on this course (he won on his second start was seasons ago).

1.45 WELLMAN PLC NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,100 added 2m Penalty Value £3,615

| 2m Pennafty Vallue 23,512.5 | Substance Pai. | Substance | Subst

BETTING: 4-5 Squire Sile, 3-1 Sablime Felton, 8-1 Guinda, Malysani, 12-1 Kitan's Cross, Westbaby,

O13-253 SAMANED (13) (D) (Magisum Construction Ltd) Mass & Saldell 4 11 5...
ATTHREY GALE (F Ltoyd) F Ltoyd 5 10 12...
4 BOLLIN FRANK (13) (Sr Mei Westmool) T Easterby 4 10 12...
(DNO (USA) (Mei R F Hey & Mei W West) Mei V Werd 15 10 12...
(DNO (USA) (Mei R F Hey & Mei W West) Mei V Werd 15 10 12...
(DNO (USA) (Mei R F Hey & Mei V West) Mei V Werd 15 10 12...
(DNO (USA) (Mei C R Earl K Meisuffe 4 10 12...
MISSE PLESSE (Meis Dead Thomson K Bailer 4 10 12...

MUSIC PLEASE (Mis Cand Thompson K Balley 4 10 12 ... ROOD MUSIC (12) (M R Johnson) M Meagher 5 10 12 ... ROYRNGE (22) (Andrew Earls) W Brisboure 4 10 12

2.45 Lord Gyllene

3.45 Classy Chief

"The BHB, with the full support the impression of disunity".

Peter Savill. But Ricketts countries the impression of disunity".

The BHB, with the full support of the Industry Committee, heen well presented and that criticised for their handling of

the submission to the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, especially by the Racehorse Owners Association Council member

3.15 DARK NIGHTINGALE (nap)

Bours

Catoma E Hadand (3) Mr J L Liovellyn Gary Lyces W Marston

signs of disunity within the sport did not help its case.

based case, which we were subsequently advised was well pre-"I don't want to get into any sented and the best racing had head-to-head comments about a particular individual," he said. ever put forward.

2.15 SCOTTISH EQUITABLE/JAGB HANDICAP HURDLE (QUALIFIER) (CLASS D) £5,000 2m 4f 110yds Penalty Value £3,518

FORM GUIDE

LORD McMURRYOUGH is a good sort to have on your ade for this test. He has just tacked the necessary pace in two-milers the season to trouble Cha-Yo at Haydock and Henrietta Howard at Huntington, but this ground is bound to suit him and the return to this longer trip is also in his favour. Domatippel was fit from the Flat when he best Rumaway Peta name lengths at Warwick a week ago. His pace has to be respected, but this is a toughter test, and he has a stone more on his back. Rangifficial won a terrible race with ease at Tow-caster last time and is up 50. His bumper win was gained over a trip short of two miles, so there is the doubt whether he will prove as effective over this journey. Hooded Hawk lines up fresh after his lay-off. This ex-bumper horse ran away with a kittle race at Faltenham in February and Nicky Henderson then pixtle have in stronger races at Antiree and Chelerinam. He did not show much, but he is the type to do better in his second season. Thurnday Night was only a length behind Lord McMurrough at Haydock after setting the pace. He will come on for the run and bear Power's Bay over this trip at Ayr in April, Act The Wag fields off the season over huntles after a chasing campaign lest term with Andy Turnetl. He looks best watched, while first-time-out is not usually the time for a Cambo win, Royal Citizes likes test ground and would not be out of it on his best form — a blunder four out numer.

ikes fest ground and would not be out of a on his best form - a blunder four out ruining

2.45 BARRY D TRENTHAM HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £6,500 added 2m 7f Penalty Value £4,624

9 15UZ/4 MR BNADER (369) (MA BODDINGTY IV CONSERVED AS 30 5 Lawrence 10 31F12-0 INVOCAVERRY (10) &F (04s W Morelly M Wilsonson 8 10 5 Lawrence - 10 deciserd - 10 deciserd - BETTEN 2-3-1 Floriblecomb, 7-2 Bullyon Boy, 8-2 Lord Cylline, 8-1 Gible Greeningh, Lake Of Longiuses

FORM CURDE

FORM CURDE

BALLYEA BOY is the numer open to improvement after edging out Arctroney Chief at Towcester on his chasing debut. He has been raised 5th and this is a stronger race, but he had 
some sound placed runs in staying hurdies last term and a follow up is on the cards. Lord 
Gyllene is a danger despite conceding a stone to Balyea Boy. He ran well against some 
decent opposition last season and made Call it A Day fight hard on his reappearance here 
19 days ago. With the run behind him and this extra quarter-mile more his tinp, Lord Gyllane is bound to go close. Brases Of Mair best Ground Nut on his chasing debut at Hereford last season, but never really progressed. Still, he looks on a fair mark in this handicap 
and had a warm-up over hurdles a fortnight ago. Flashthecash has not run since his fastground win at, Arctive in April of last year, while Harwell Lad continues to prove untrustworthy. Gibis Geschlight mostly lost his way last season and a watching brief has to be advised, 
while Russite Air remeans body hendicapped on the 10th higher mark since the win from 
General Command at Ayr. Lake Of Loughrea has looked a shade suspect when the chips 
are down, and this race may prove a bit too hot for Knockaverry, but Mir Imrader is just 
the type to go well with a low weight when tresh.

Selection: BALLYEA BOY

3.15 GEO. HODGES & SON HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,750

FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

Jenny Paman has yet to hit top form, but MASTER TRIBE, a pacey son of Master Wilter who won at Ludiow and Newbury last season, a fanced. Master Tribe was reportedly a sock horse when he retimed from Kempton after starting favourite against Minanicky, and a first-flight mistake numed his chance in the competitive Amirre race won by Trage Hero. He has a stocehie weight to defy on his reappearance, but he is a class above his so make. Select Ciel is at his very best at Haydock, but he has also won twee here. However, he made heavy weather of beating Circus Line on his favourite course last week and a 6th penalty may find him out. Den't Mightlegale was Hobdeyed in the spring and was good enough after the lay-off to win a small race at Wincarron last month. She was outstayed in the softer ground over the longer trip by Sail By The Stars at Exter attenwards, so the return to two miles is the right move. Cadosagoid looks beatable under 12st after drawing a blank last term and then finding Mouse Bird too good at the weights in testing ground at Newton Abbot on his reappearance. Mr Bureaucraft has not really shown enough to suggest he is good enough for this, while a 7th rise in a stronger race will test Centaur Express to the hit after his Bangor win from Tanseaq. Juste Cecil is likely to have healish ready following a lengtly lay-off, but a tighter course may suft him better.

Selection: MASTER TRIBE

3.45 LEVY BOARD NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 340 2m Penalty Value £2,453

baha, Chaspy Chief, 20-1 others 1995; Prophets Honour 3 10 12 M Foster 9-4 (P Hastam) 15 ran

BETTING: 6-4 Always Happy, 9-4 Circus Star, 8-1 Combile's Pride, 12-1 Tarty, Topoglow, 14-1 Al-

added 2m Penalty Value £2,789

13230-P MARWELL DUD (23) (G) (D) (N Weishamb R Amer 7 11 9...

177586 - BRA GREJARAE (200) (C) (As S A Scott N Twiston-Dunes 10 11 2...

133FP-5 BRAES OF MAR (24) (Queen Elembert) N Handerson 6 10 13...

232041 - BALISEA SOY (14) (Deen Elembert) N Handerson 6 10 19...

123F9-3 R. RSIGE ARR (12) (Mas G M Surges) 1 (Roberts 9 10 8 ...

13-FUZ LAKE OF LOUISHESA (12) (Mas Henry J Duffey) K Balley 6 10 8 ....

10-1 Rustic Air, 12-1 others 1995; Swith's Band 7 11 10 W Maraton 11-10 (Mrs J Pirmen) 4 ran

ER) (CLASS D) £5,000 2m 4f 1,10yds Pental

1 5305-1 DOMAPPEL (7) (0 C Baries Ms.) (cell 4 11 12 (Ben).

2 1541-2 LORD MEARROUGH (22) (1) Neale) 1 Medic 6 11 11.

3 542100- HOODED HASKI (220) (0) (0 M Hame) N Herdeson 5 11 10.

4 02021-4 THERROUGH (220) (220) Robert (1) Hame) N Herdeson 5 11 10.

5 319532- ACT THE WAR (229) Robert Opings N Hames 5 11 10.

6 221-411 RAHSEDIER (M2) (259 Riber ) Mayor (1 Kern 5 11 4.

673213- CAMED (M3) (259) (10 B Detect N Baries 10 10 10.

8 11742-P ROFAL CHIZEN (12) (0) (10 N F Bottombe) / 10 thms 7 10 9.

8 ETTING: 9-4 Rangillot, 11-4 Domappel, 5-1 (1 Pente) 8 ran 1996: Can Can Cherie 5 10 11 L Aspell 3-1 (1 Pente) 8 ran FORMS (210)E

"But discordant voices are

...R Domicódy ....Mr R Rottall

"The BHB, with the full support of the Industry Committee, agreed to support a broadly of disunity is not helpful." he stressed that the process will take months to complete as it there would be a cut in duty. There are some worrying signs Ricketts yesterday promised further discussions but no immediate solutions to racing's

all sectors of the racing and bet-

ting industries.
"It is not all doom and

problems which have been mag- gloom. There is a strong meanified by the Budget failure. But sure of disappointment because decent levels of sponsorship. TAUNTON

13 THEME AREMA M Pice 20.5 R Hingles
14 SP TRANSIA (11) R Browneron 17.5 i Harvey
14 declared BETTENS: 11.4 Dark Traffic, 7-2 Stone Island, 5-1 Jammy Jensy, 7-1 in
Cahoots, 8-1 Colebrook Wille, 10-1 Senara Song, 14-1 others

2.25 MENDIP PLYWOOD NOVICE CHASE (CLASS C) £6,500 added 2m 3f Greenback 2.55 Rosencrantz 3.25 Herbert Buchanan 3.55 Supermick GOING: Good to Firm (Good in places).

Right-hand course. Run-in of 18thyds.

Course is S of town on B3170. Thunton station 2m. ADMISSION: Members \$11. Paddock \$8.50; Centre of Course \$4. CAR PARKS: Centre of course \$3; remainder free.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Racing Hawk (visored, 1.25), Blossom Dearle (1.55), Supreme Star (3.51).
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Jefferies (3.55) when at Towester on Saurday.

LONG-DISTANCE EUNNERS; Dark Tradile (1.55) has been sent 206 miles by Mrs J Ceel from Newmarket, Salfalk. 1.25 BEECH NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS C) £5,000 added 2m 1f

HYPERION

1.25 Secret Spring 1.55 Dark Truffle (nb) 2.25

02-4 COUNTRY TARQUIN (9) R Hodges 4 11 0 Herris [7] RACING HAMK M Saundes 4 11 0... RODERICK HUDSON J Toller 4 11 0 ... 2 YET AGAIN (5) Maz Gay Kelleney 4 11 0 ..... 005-540 ROC AGE (23) G Daves 5 10 9 ......

PLE JUVENILE NOVICE SELLING 1.55 DLE (CLASS G) £2,450 added 3YO 2m 1f 1 STONE ISLAND (23) (0) P Hooks 11.3 ... 0 APPEAL AGAIN (22) D Burchel 10.10 .... 

1 (CLASS D) £7,000 acticed 3m 1 063P43 DURALLOW LODGE (12) (CD) C R Savest 9 11 10 \_B Fenton 2 2014-21 BALLY CLOWER (11) Mss V Wilsons 9 11 8 \_\_\_\_ R Johnson 3 1-13734 CERTAIN ARGLE (22) (CD) P Hobbs 7 11 7 \_\_\_ D Bridgestor 4 172134 HERBERT BUCHANNI (LA) (6 ER) P Hobbs 6 11 2 \_\_ P Hobe 5 552UP-5 SCOTONS (22) R O'Sulson 10 10 10 \_\_\_\_ B Powell 5 552UP-5 SCOTONS (22) R O'Sulson 10 10 10 \_\_\_\_ B Powell BETTING: 7-4 Bably Clover, 11-4 Certain Angle, 7-2 Herbert Bucheson, 4-1 Duhallow Lodge, 10-1 Scotonl 3.55 WALRUI Market 2m 3f 110yds WALNUT HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) - 9 deciand -BETTING: 5-2 Supermick, 3-1 Jeffenes, 8-1 Flour de Tal, 7-1 Beyond Our Reach, Little Hooligan, 8-1 Supreme Star, 12-1 others

### CARLISLE

HYPERION 12.35 Ben Cruachan 1.05 Supertop 1.35 B The One 2.05 Sparky Gayle 2.35 Jocks Cross 3.05 Earlymorning Light 3.35 Stormy Coral

INSPECTION: 8.30
GOING: Good (Frost in ground).

Right-hand, undulating course. Run-in of 350rds.

Course is 36 of sen, 4m W of junc 42 of Mil. Cartisle station
2m. ADMISSION: Club \$12 (OAPs & under-21s \$9); Tationsalis
56 (OAPs & under-21s \$31). CAR PARK: On rails \$3; rest free. SIS RACING BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Brumost (1.0%), Little Redwing (visored, 1.05). WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DAYS: Supertop (1.05) won at Ain-

tree on Friday.

LONG DESTANCE EUNNEES: Madam Muck (1.35), Mariners
Micror (3.05) & Holy Sting (3.05) have been sent 251 miles by
N Twiston-Davies from Namton, Gloucestershire. 12.35 EBF 'NH' NOVICE HURDLE (QUALIFIER) (CLASS E) (DIV I) £2,700 2m 4f 110yds

105 OULTON NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 1f

(CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 1f

1 F21212 SUPERIOP (6) Lings 8 12 0... Jackine (7)

2 GFF FILS DE CRESSON (13) Jackin 6 11 6 ... Jackine (7)

3 GFO BRIBGON (2040 D Mofett 5 11 4 ... D. J Mofett 8

4 ODSFA 5 MENSHAR (17) Lings 4 11 0 ... M Poster FIG. RYANAY BLUES (26) (25) Mm M Reselvy 4 10 12 P Hoton B 6 4635-53 AMDARTICTERN (20) G Ottopd 6 10 4 ... G CAME (2) O ODSFA ME CRESSON (2) SACRE 4 10 3 ... A Thomson 8 04253-0 TROY'S OREAM (12) M Harmond 5 10 2 ... D Bentley OF CAD 3 TOTAD (20) C Parter 6 10 0 ... D Parter 10 500F40 MY MISSILE (15) R COCIOUM 6 10 0 ... D Parter 11 540564 LITTLE REDWING (26) M Harmond 4 10 0 ... M Williamson V 12 OPESFP - AMBIDDED TOUS (220) E ARSIN 4 10 0 ... B Harding - 12 declared - Missian weight: 10st. The harding weight Totad 9st 12th, My Missia 9st 7th, Little Redwing, Ambitsonous 9st 65. Totad 9st 12th, My Missia 9st 7th, Little Redwing, Ambitsonous 9st 65. Totad 9st 12th, My Missia 9st 7th, Little Redwing, Ambitsonous 9st 65. Totad 9st 12th, My Missia 9st 7th, Little Redwing, Ambitsonous 9st 65. Totad 9st 12th, My Missia 9st 7th, Little Redwing, Ambitsonous 9st 65. Totad 9st 12th, My Missia 9st 7th, Little Redwing, Ambitsonous 9st 65. Totad 9st 12th, My Missia 9st 7th, Little Redwing, Ambitsonous 9st 65. Totad 9st 12th, My Missia 9st 7th, Little Redwing, Ambitsonous 9st 65. Totad 9st 12th, My Missia 9st 7th, Little Redwing, Missia 12th, Little Redwing, Missia 12th, Little Redwing, Missia 12th, Little Redwing, Missia 12th, My Missia 12th, Little Redwing, Missia 12th, My Missia 12th, Missia 12th, My Missia 12th, Missia

1.35 EBF 'NH' NOVICE HURDLE (QUALIFIER) (CLASS E) (DIV II) £2,700 2m 4f 110yds 0 JERNAULY (17) GBP G Richards 5 11 0 B Flanding
6 JERNAULY (127) P Creestrug 5 11 0 R Supple
SAURE 9800VE J 10 Pole 6 11 0 R Supple
SAURE 9800VE J 10 Pole 6 10 0 R Supple
SAURE 9800VE J 10 Pole 6 10 0 R Supple
SAURE 9800VE J 10 Pole 6 10 0 R Supple
SAURE 9800VE J 10 Pole 6 10 0 R Supple
SAURE 9800VE J 10 Pole 10 T Supple 10 R Supple 10 Pole 10 R Supple 10 Pole 10 R Supple 10 Pole 10 Pol

BETTING: 5-4 B The One, 4-1 Median Micci, 9-1 More Champagee, Formers Subaldy, Silver Grove, 10-1 Menaldi, 14-1 others

— 12 doctored —
BETTING: 6-4 Spariny Goyle, 9-2 Mariners, Mittor, 6-1 Stare Cleann, 6-1 Chipped
Out, 30-1 River Unstalon, 12-1 Crown Equerry, Mild Dee, 14-1 others

2.35 CALDBECK HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,750 added 2m 1f 12-5256 DONE WELL (6) P Martest # 12 0 ..... 

3.05 DALSTON HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5.500 added 3m

8 PPSP66 MAJORITY MAJOR (195) P Creentagh 7 10 10 Jar 6 Browner (3) 9 00:6440 DARGET LINE (1922) (0) lors 5 Smith 6 10 5. Jar P Blanner (7) - 9 declared - 9 decl

14-1 others 1995: Calisoe Bay 6 11 0 J Osborne 1-4 (O Shenwood) 4 ran

1.55; 1. DRAGORAGET (D.) Surction 8-1; 2. Parede Runt 7-52, 2. Cacifoconter 15-1; 14 ma, 5-4 to Futeto Ratt, 8, 9, 0 Bursted, 15ta: Vale); Tata: £8,40; £1.30; £1.10; \$4.00, DF; £24.30; CSF: £28,84, Téo: 129,80 (part men) 1269.80 (perr word).
2.269.1. BELLS LIFE fü formeyt 2-1 fev.
2. Beau Bard 11.4; 3. Bestjamin Landon, Total 2-1, 4 mn. 10, 24, 67 Hobbs, Mrohean, Total 22.90, Dr. 63.50, GSP. £7.27.
558.30.

3.25: 1. OR ROYAL (A P McCo) 10-11 in; 2. Super Cols 11-4; 3. Services 40-1. 9 res. 1. 18. (M Pipe: Wellington), Tota: £2.10; £1.50, £1.20, £6.80, DF; £3.30, CSF: £3.75, Tylo: £53.00, NR: Termassee Mng. 3.56: £1.LDY REGISCOA (A Magaing) 5-2; 2. Shore Party 7-4 for; 3. Shoreg Tel 20-1. 15 res. 2%, £1. (Mass Verputs Williams, Herthor), Tota: £3.40; £1.40, £1.50, £4.50, DF; £6.50, CSF: £7,35, NR: France Mirck, Tho: £658.30. 3.25: 1. OR ROYAL (A P McCoy) 10-11

Jackpot: £7,100,00 (part wort; pool of £1,582,38 carried forward to Ultrovatur today). pot: £186.90. Quadpot: £26.90. 8: £83.42. Place & £49.47.

HEXHAM 1.05: 1. CHOPWEL CHITARNS (P Nove)
1-2 ths; 2. Minusion 20-1; 3. Tion Gold 10-1.
12 ten. 1, 11. (T Easterly). Total: \$1,20; \$1.20, \$8.20, £1.30. DF. £38.40. CSF: £14.05. Tro: £195.10.

3.05:15. HD: E310-14-16 and At-3.05:1 BUYERS DREAM (G Caha) 7-1: 2 Willie Spanide 14-1; 3. Grand Scenary 13-2. 14 ran. 6-1 jt far Juke Box Billy (4th). NK, 2/A. (B Elison). Tota: £10.20; £3.60, £5.10, £1.80. DF: £105.40. CSF: £98.02. Incest: £529.76. Tric: £137.20 (part won).

3.35: 1. BOLD STATEMENT (N Bentiev) 3.35: 1. SOLD STATEMENT (N Bentley, 5-12; For Cathial 4-1; 8. Bebby Grant 20-1. 14 ran, 11-8 tax Lord Of The Loch (4th), 4, 174, IG M Moore), Tote: £7.70; £1.20, £1.30, £7.60, DF: £15.30, CSF: £25.54, Trio: £103.40 (pert word). Placepot: £5,145.30, Quadpot: £97.70. Place &: £2258.06, Place &: £1686.00.

12.45: 1 LADY PED. (M.A. Rogarald) evens fax; 2. River Bay 9-2; 3. Dunk Challenger 10-1. 7 ram. Hd. 9. (N. Henderson, Lambourti). Tetar £1.90; £1.30, £2.10. DP: £3.30, CSP: £6.47. Tet. £3.20. NP: Dentes Caveler, Strinp. 115: 1. SPARKLING SPRING (C O'Dwyer) 11: 1. 2. Beat Of Friends 4-1; 3. Mone Stytest 11-1; 2, Beat Of Friends 4-1; 3, None Stimed 5-2, 9 ran. 2-1 fav Milersbrd (4th). 15, sht-nd.

(K Balley, Upper Lambourn). Total: £12.10; £4.00, £1.30, £1.30. DF: £48.20. CSF: 1.45: 1. CALL ME RIVER (I Lawrence) 6-1

1.45c.1. CALL MS RIVER O LEMETOR 6-1 co far. 2. Jan Del Prince 33-1; 3. Carplinal Rule 14-1; 4. Milngas 25-1. 16 rat. 6-1 co fars Westerly Gele Hell, 1. Meccary, 1. 12. (P. Hodger, Charlester), Toker 56. 10; 51. 60, 55.50, 53.70, 510.10. Dr. £112.90, CSF. £161.14, Incast: £2.404.66. Tro: £140.90. NR: Ragged Parigions.

2.15c.1. READY MONEY CREEK U Octobro 10.11 for 3. Destinator 7.2-3. Mer.

borne) 10-11 (ar; 2. Derakshan 7-2; 3. Hen-rys Port 66-1. 11 ran. 2, 2. (0 Sherwood, Upper Lambourn). Totes: £2.10; £1.10, £1.20, £9.00. DF: £4.10. CSF: £5.12. Tro:

M Bally, Upper Lambourn: Total 5.1, 20 and 4, 2, 20 and 4, 2, 2, 2, 2, 3, 3, 10 and 5.1, 1

1986 Calsine Bay 6 11 0 J Ostome 1-4 to Shemood 4 an PORM GUIDE

Andy Turnell has been waiting for the better ground before giving SQUIRRE SILK his first mate of fences. A very smart furder who firshed 8th in the Chempson Hurdle, Squire Silk has every hope of doing extra well at the game and he beat Boolease under 12st as Newbury institute up last sesson. Subblisse Fellow has proved frustrating and he flooped again behalf around The Gale at Bangar after beating poor meds at Heretoni. He has a lor to do with his pencity. Kam Bailey's Oddell is intensiting deepte a poor showing over hordes at Markuny a year ago, He would have hacked up in an inten point last year but for failing at the last and more will be heard of this young gelding. Kine's Cross did not jump too well at Warwick three weeks ago when fourth to Brazil Or Bust. The st more his ground, but he tould not have level with Souine Sick over hurdless. Calcidat came to intend early last adeation and has located the type to do even bette, as has Washeby, who has the benefit of a Necestion: SQUIRE SIX. 1995: Prophets Honour 3 10 12 M Foster 9-4 (P Hastern) 15 ran FORM GUIDE 
BARANOV should give us a good run at decent odds against Chrous Steir and Always Haspgy. He was a progressive type on furf after his alf-weather runs and reliabled the step-up in 
distance when he won a maden handloop over 10 furfores at Warwick in July for present 
connections. Cursus Star was promising on the Flat for St Mank Prescott and Dead Nicholson thought the gound was too lively for him at Newbury like weeks ago when the gedding 
pulled hard and frushed fourth to Merawi. He is bound to go well on this better surface and 
has an obvious chance gedding 91b from Always Happy, a game winner from modest opposition at Heydock before finding Noble Lord much too pacey on the faster ground at Chelstromatic. Albahas was shriched from Robert Amstrong to Jack Banks in the latter half of the 
Flat season. The gelding had some form in strong hendicage and would have a squeak on 
his hurdles debut, while Tarry ran well in a vigor on the level. Selections BARANOV 2 FF- 1. CENERAL TONIC (Scottle Michael) 2.55; 1. Kerner 13-2; 3. Miles Diakida 14-1. 15 ram. 3-1 fev Yes Men. 174, 374, () Carn-doilo, Wantage). Totas: £11.30; £2.90, £2.80, £0.10, £7.8.95. Tif-cest: £349.16. The £198.20.

WINDSOR

Cast: 5345-38. Trot: £158.70. NR: Salety, Stor of Itals.

3.136: 1. DONTDRESSFORDBINGER (I Doctorriel 3 1 fat: 2. Pair Of Jupius 9-2: 3. August Twelfits 20-1. 9 ram. 4, nl. (R Hodger, Solner un, Tole: £140-£1.10. £1.80, £3.70. £7.8.20. CSP. £148.1. Traces: £174.63. Tro: £106.50.

3.45: 1. COPPER BOY (B Powell 7-2: 2. Kalessel 10-1: 3. Lessons Less £0-1. £2 ram. 9-4 fav Clarreconn (5th), 5, 7, (R Buckler, Bndport, Tole: £4.90: £1.60, £3.00, £2.50. DF: £25.50. CSF: £37.53. Traces: £305.05. Trace £160.80.

Placeport: £20.60. Quadpot: £8.90. scepet: £20.60. Quadpot: £8.90. sce 6: £54.93. Place 5: £33.74.

1.25: 1. MISHTY MOSS (No F Husby)
Fig. Pears for 2. Genter Isle 12:1:3. Kind Cler16: 66-1: 15 mm. 6, 3. (D Nicholson, Temple
Gotting). Total: 12:00; £1:50, £3:10, £5:60.
D: £13:80, CSP. £14:18. This £164:40. NR.

1.28: 1.10MOS MRSTRAL () Burker 11:1:
2. Destimer 20:1: 3. Cleaver Boy 5-2. 7 ran.
2-1 fav Urishury (dm). 8, nk. (D Lamb). Tobac
25.30; 27.80, £10.50. DF: £38.40. CSF:
£144.97. Tricast: £657.76. NR: The Next

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RACING RESULTS

In the 1983 FA Cup final he was one kick away from being the match-winning hero – the man who sank Manchester United. But he missed... Phil Shaw talks to Gordon Smith, the Scotsman who is still a legend at Brighton & Hove Albion



### The Wembley miss that has become a myth

nd Smith must score!" The words will follow Gordon Smith to his grave, though the man who blew the FA Cup final for Brighton & Hove Albion - or nearly won it, depending on your opinion - now offers an alternative epitaph. "He so loved the club," says Smith in mock evangelical tones, "that he gave his only begotten

As the Goldstone Ground's dwindling flock mull over Tuesday's firstround defeat at home to Sudbury Town, they can be forgiven a less than avid interest in the teenagers who could be the club's future. With Brighton bottom of the Third Division, beaten in the Cup by Dr Martens League opposition and riv-en by civil strife, many fear they may not have one. Yet among the current trainees there is indeed a midfielder called Smith. Son of "And Smith Must Score".

Grant Smith's very presence among the fledgling Seagulls is symptomatic of how the repercussions from one snapshot of action. 13 years ago, continue to touch the lives of Gordon Smith and those closest to him. Of which more anon - but first back to Wembley, where Brighton and Manchester United are locked at 2-2 in the last seconds of

Jimmy Case, now Grant's manager, releases Michael Robinson. who these days works as Spanish television's Des Lynam. Robinson, fending off Kevin Moran, finds Smith unmarked 10 yards out, "And Smith must score," predicts Peter Jones on Radio 2, scarcely suspecting he has given the medium its own "They

think it's all over.' Smith, allowing himself one touch to control the ball on a sodden surface, tries to place his shot beyond Gary Bailey. Instead of narrowing the angle as any goalkeeping coach would advise. Bailey commits himself to a dive. He goes the wrong way but the ball sticks between his legs. Whereupon he smothers it gleeful-

United won the replay 4-0. Jimmy Melia, he of the shining pate and disco shoes, was eventually sacked as Brighton's manager. Smith moved on to Manchester City, Oldham and Austria, though in the popular memory Sussex by the sea remains his last resort.

Just as Sir Stanley Matthews al-ways says that the 1953 epic should be called the Mortensen final, a case could be made for '83 being Bailey's year. Smith, who stills turns out in his native Scotland for a charity team, Dukia Pumpherston, has long since accepted that will never happen. The Brighton fans were always

great with me, and it was funny when they called their fanzine And Smith Must Score," he said. "When I went back with City I got a huge round of applause as I got off the bus. And when I spoke at Steve Foster's testimonial dinner last year, and started my speech by saying 'I don't know whether Brighton supporters will remember me', they saw the funny side. "What does get on my nerves is

the way people throw the incident at me as if it encapsulates my whole career. They forget all the medals I won with Rangers and that I was top a TV and radio football analyst Photograph: David Ashdown

scorer for City from midfield. When Gareth Southgate got that wave of sympathy last summer, I thought to myself: 'Where was collective responsibility in '83'?"

Not that Smith is bitter or haunted. He now works as a financial consultant for one of Glasgow's leading accountancy firms, as well as being in demand as a match analyst for Sky Sports, BBC Radio Scotland and a national newspaper. It is just that

Dodd saying to him: 'What about that business with your tax bill?' It's unbelievably insensitive, because they can't know how I'm going to react. It's a good job I can take it."
His polite riposte, which surpriscs many people, is to point out that

he did, in fact, score in the final, from a fine header. "When we came off

miss all the time, when I'm getting out of taxis or going into a shop. It's like someone who's never met Ken on the scoreboard. I thought: 'If we win 1-0, like underdogs often do, you could end up the hero here." Now it is as if his goal has been

erased from the record. Smith is accustomed to a reflex response whenever his name is mentioned. "When I started in finance I heard one of my colleagues saying on the phone: 'We've got Gordon Smith working for us.' There was a pause and he

'When Gareth Southgate got that wave of sympathy last summer, I thought to myself: Where was collective responsibility in 1983?'

a goal up at half time, the word 'Smith' was under Brighton's name 'said: That's right, the ex-footballer... 'Yeah, that's the one, extra time.' I knew exactly what the guy on the other end of the line had said!"

On tour with City in Malaysia, Smith was sunbathing when he became aware of a Chinese boy moving between the deck chairs. "Suddenly this kid was in front of me saying 'Autograph?' I signed his book but no sooner had I sat back again when he said: 'You Gordon Smith?' I opened one eye and I could see all the City lads thinking: 'Imagine 'Smudger' getting recognised.' Then the boy said: 'How you miss sitter in

"Another time, when I was in a ho-tel with City, a bloke came over in the bar saying: 'Gordon Smith? Didn't you score for Brighton at Wembley? The boys burst out laughing and he asked what the joke was. I told him that for some reason I'd been expecting him to say something else. That was a first."

People's recollections of the mo-ment have become distorted down the years. "It's gone from me miss-ing from 10 yards to two yards to point-blank range. I've said to guys: OK, what actually happened? They say: 'You were a yard out and you scooped it over the bar."

Some observers have pinpointed Smith's failure to score as the origin of Brighton's present woes. "Absolute rubbish – we'd already been relegated anyway," he said. "What's happened is due to bad management, not any bad finishing by me. Brighton sold off good players and replaced them on the cheap from the lower discious but it does not be the divisions, but it doesn't work like that.

"I find the current crisis unbelievable, and I can understand why the fans might see the Sudbury result as the last straw. Brighton ground sharing at Portsmouth or Gillingham would be like Rangers moving to Edinburgh. But, if they could stabilise things, the potential's there to climb back up the League.

I'd love to see it happen.

That there may be a Smith on hand to help them is due entirely to the old man's brush with a South African keeper. Last summer, Smith Snr was invited down to the Gold-stone to be interviewed by Nick Hancock for a video of sporting bloomers. His son, aged three at the time of the final, went along for the

Grant was asked if he wanted to pass the time by training with some trialists. When his father asked how it had gone, he shrugged and said: 'Oh, fine.' "I thought no more of it until I got a call two weeks later saying he did really well." Gordon Smith said. "He was invited back in the autumn. Then they asked him to

And Smith did score recently. from a long-distance shot against Wimbledon which he matter-offactly compares with David Beckham's wonder goal against the grown-up Dons. One day, perhaps. the family will be able to enjoy his exploits on tape, instead of squirming through the one featuring that fateful afternoon at Wembley or the Nick Hancock version.

There are no prizes, incidentally. for guessing what the latter ended up

### Gough quick to fill his boots

Cricket

Darren Gough needed some minor treatment for blisters after bowling yesterday in new boots during England's first practice session in Harare - an energetic morning and after-noon work-out which took place without both Mike Atherton and Andy Caddick.

The England captain, Atherton, and the fast bowler Caddick were both given a day off to help them recover properly from sore throats. Gough sees the 14week winter tour of Zimbabwe

back to the Test scene he last exwant to prove on this tour that I can be the spearhead of England's bowling attack in the future," the 26-year-old Yorkshire

paceman said. playing for clubs in Zimbabwe helped England out in a practice and 20-year-old left-arm spinner spun sharply to defeat Alec Stewart's forward lunge and Jack Russell jubilantly whipped

perienced 16 months ago. "I the England players broke off to do a final fielding session, Rawnsley had Nick Knight caught at long-on by James Kirtley, the promising Sussex fast bowler who was also enjoying his Two young county cricketers brief England involvement.

Shortly afterwards, just before

Atherton is expecting results from England's pre-tour training. "I have noticed in the past, Marthew Rawnsley, the Birm- and especially in my own crickingham-born Worcestershire et, that we have been guilty of player, had a moment to re- tailing off a little towards the member. His very first delivery end of a series or tour," he said. "This winter I do not want to

see that and our aim is to be as fit, if not fitter, than any other

In Portugal, on a week-long training trip in early November, the squad did not touch a bat and their only contact with a cricket ball came during fielding and catching sessions interspersed with hard physical conditioning.

Gordon Smith is now a financial consultant in Glasgow and

England play two one-day games on Saturday and Sunday in Harare. The first of two four-day matches, against Mashonaland, will start next

Tuesday.
The England party will today welcome Graham Thorpe, who delayed his arrival because he wanted to spend longer with his

From: Mr T Lloyd Sir: I was very pleased to see Glenn Moore's piece "You only sing when you're standing" (19 November), but I think it is a little more complex than that.

I support Charlton Athletic and went to the Coca-Cola Cup replay at Anfield, in part to see the ground and hear the Kop. What Kop? They didn't even sing when they were winning.

I don't think it is so much about whether you sit but who the costs of seats has excluded. Whenever I have watched Charlton (home or away), the noise from both sets of supporters has always come from groups of

It is this group that have been particularly hit by unemploy-ment and access to the sums of money that following your team requires you to have. It is no coincidence that the noise invariably comes from the cheapest part of the ground, and some will do anything to be there.

Yes, seats have impacted on atmosphere, and clubs should be thinking about how they can ensure young people can fill those seats. As they will bring their voices and passion, they won't need singing areas, just access through the turnstiles.

Yours TREFOR LLOYD London SE15

Letters should be marked "For publica-tion" and should contain daytime and evening phose numbers. They should be sent to Sports Editor, The Independent, I Canada Square, Lordon E145DL. They may be shortened for reasons of space.

### Noise prevention Minister urges schools to encourage boxing

Sports politics MIKE ROWBOTTOM

The Minister for Sport, Iain Sproat, yesterday advocated the resurgence of boxing in schools. The minister emphasised his belief that the sport was a good way of teaching young

people discipline.
"I would like to see some schools reintroducing boxing," he said. "I am extremely keen for the boxing authorities to come up with their ideas on the subject. In truth, other members of the Government may not be as keen, but these are my views."

Answering a query from Rod Robertson, the chairman of the Amateur Boxing Association. Sproat, who was opening the 25th National Conference of Sport and Recreation in Market Bosworth, added: "There is a general election coming up, and you may not get another Minister of Sport who will be quite as keen to help boxing. So

take your opportunity."
His advice is unlikely to go down well with the anti-boxing lobby, especially in the wake of the recent British Medical Association campaign to highlight the vulnerability of the brain to percussive blows. It was unfortunate timing for such a comment given yesterday's verdict by a Glasgow court of accidental

death in the case of the boxer James Murray, who died of head injuries after a fight last year.

The minister gave his assur-ances that he would do all he could to resist sports such as box-ing and fishing being severely restricted in the way competitive shooting is about to be by the Bill currently going through the House of Commons.

Sarah Cooper, of the National Smallbore Rifle Association,

Sixteen athletes returned suspicious urine samples at the At-lanta Olympics, although only two were banned for doping. The suspensions were for steroid abuse, but the International Olympic Committee has revealed that another two cases were "discussed and abandoned", seven cases involving the drug bromantan were rejected on "juridical grounds" and another five steroid cases were rejected because of technical doubts.

asked whether the decision to ban the use of all but .22 calibre weapons would jeopardise the position of Manchester in hosting the 2004 Commonwealth Games, given that they were contracted to holding shooting events. We will have to wait and see what Parliament finally decides," Sproat responded. In response to figures released

yesterday which show a 10 per

funding for the English and UK Sports Councils over the next 10 years (£49.2m in 95-96, £44.4m projected in 1999-2000), Sproat said there had been a "cash freeze", and funding levels would decrease through inflation. The increase in television

cent drop in combined Treasury

money into sport, he implied. was a big factor in convincing the Treasury that funding need

not keep up with inflation.
Roger Black welcomed the current planning for a British Academy of Sport, which has attracted applications from 26 locations this month. "Let's give Britain a focus for sport," he said. "It's something we've never had."

He described how his career would not have continued had he not sought specialist help in France, Italy and Australia. "I did it despite the system. It was risky, but I made it. Most top British athletes are exceptions to the rules. But I don't think we can afford to take the risks any more."

Chris Brasher, founder of the London Marathon, criticised the role the Tory government had played in damaging sport during Mrs Thatcher's term as Prime Minister. "There were eight different Sports Ministers," he said, "Manchester City have had eight different managers in 10 years. And look where they are now."

Boxer's death accidental.

### Hudson and Kirsten keep cool

Andrew Hudson and Garv Kirsten answered the call for greater discipline yesterday by scoring centuries on the opening day of the second Test against India in Calcutta. The South African openers

responded to Hansie Cronje's demand for greater control from his batsmen after their poor showing in the first Test with a stand of 236 in 60.2 overs at Eden Gardens.

It surpassed South Africa's previous best opening partnership of 155 against India, fea- over after tea when he dragged ysed the custern city's transport

sels, at Port Elizabeth in 1992-93. Hudson enjoyed some luck in the opening session when he twice edged Javagal Srinath.

on a placid pitch.

Hudson's 146 - his fourth Test century - came off 244 balls and included 24 boundaries. He eventually fell when he edged the ball into his stumps as he tried to cut a delivery from Venkatesh Prasad. Kirsten looked confident

turing Hudson and Kepler Wes- a ball on to his stumps while aiming a cover drive at Srinath. India's hopes of cating into the South African innings following the dismissal of the two openers were dashed by Herschelle Gibbs and Daryll Cullinan. Their who kept a good line and length third-wicket stand was worth

63 at the close. Gibbs was unbeaten on 29 and Cullinan 34. In a surprise move. South Africa omitted Fanie de Villiers from their team. He was replaced by the debutant Lance Klusener. De Villiers was the top against both pace and spin, scorer in the first Test which Inplaying some exquisite cover drives. He was dismissed in the first strike in Calcutta, which paral-

system, did not prevent at least 50,000 fans from reaching Eden Gardens. First day; S Africa won toss

Forst day, S Africa won toss
SOUTH AFRICA — Brast Isologia
A C Hudson b Presadi — 146
G Kirsten b Smath — 102
H H Gibbs not out — 28
D J Cuthnan not out — 29
Extres: (15 lb20 nb9) — 34
Total (for 2)
Total (for 2)
Total (for 2)
To bat: "W J Croye, B M McMidan, L Muserier, 10 J Richardson, P L Symeox, A A Donald, P Adams

er, 10 J Hichardson, P.L. Symoox, A.A. Don-ald, P. Adams Bowling: Smath 25-4-80-1 (2nb); Prasad 19-3-63-1 (5nb); Josh 12:1-48-0; Ganguly 3-1-10-0; Kumble 17-1-52-0; Hirwani 14-2-51-0 (2nb). PROBLER S Drawd, th R Monga, S Ganguly, "S R Tendulka, M Achanuddin, V V S Lavman, J Strauth, A Kumble, S Joshi, M V Presad, N D Hinwani.

### Style and imagination are not entirely lost on sports watchers

The most encouraging thing about that embraces such virtuosos as rounded footballer than the one who Jonathan Davies' recall to the Welsh team against Australia in Cardiff on nett. Billy Cleaver and Cliff Jones. Sunday was that it led immediately to a run on the box office. As reported yesterday by my colleague. Robert Cole, no sooner had the news been broadcast than queues began

What this tells us, I like to think, is that style and imagination are not entirely lost on a generation of sports watchers who seldom these days fail to convey the impression that victory by any legitimate means is all that matters.

Of course, Davies is a special case, his feats, both in rugby union and rugby league, representing fully the

A try against Scotland in 1988 when Davies burrowed through after kick- the rigours of league. A better team ing ahead and a marvellous effort for Great Britain against Australia at Wembley two years ago was the

stuff of pure genius. The memory of those efforts, and many others, alone would have ken to the great Welsh wing about been enough to quicken interest in Saturday's proceedings (a full house of 53,000 is now expected) once Davies, 34, was selected. But in the enthusiasm for his recall you sense more than nostalgia, Since Davies return to rugby union with Cardiff, and especially this season, the Welsh

turned professional with Widnes in 1989 after winning 27 caps; less extravagant, stronger, disciplined by

player.
Writing in the *Times* recently, Gerald Davies not only argued a case for his namesake's inclusion but making him captain. I had not spothis but guessed that what he had in mind was a return to old values.

This, I suspect, is what my compatriots generally have read into Jonathan Davies' selection. For a long time now it has been a great question whether Welsh rugby would ever benefit from what a coach glorious tradition of Welsh stand-offs public have been aware of a more once referred to as "creative com-



KEN JONES

promise" (as a sporting term this means as much to me as "environmental awareness"), if it could ever provide the magic past Welsh generations saw as a birthright.

There is another large question, and it has to do with the increasing number of extremely large players. It is whether a country as small as Wales can ever again be a force in

rugby?
The fashion today is to be disparaging of players in every game who performed in what people condescendingly refer to as a simpler time. You only have to ponder this for an instant to infer what it implies about Welsh rugby: a great history but not much of a future.

Weary students of this are always going back to where they think the rot set in. Some believe that it began with the rejection of Carwyn James, others cite the demise of heavy industry.

Jones saying, "Why the Rhondda [Valley] produced players who could side-step and weave was that once you went out of your front door you were on the main road. You were watching you didn't get knocked down by a passing bus. Then off the main road you were on the railway line with trains shunting coal, which meant that you had to have your wits about you there... so all your life you

Outside-halves." been, the supply line dried up after heart.

had to develop this nervous aware-

In his autobiography, Beyond the fields of play, published a short while ago, Cliff Morgan recalls Cliff suggesting he possesses qualities that made predecessors in the No 10 jersey exceptional.

Not that Davies' inclusion has met with universal approval in the Principality. Maintaining a deeprooted prejudice against rugby league, many find it deplorable. They are not worth bothering about.

On Monday, there is a memorial service at St Brides in London for the former Wales and Lions wing forward, Clem Thomas, who wrote ness of what was going on around for the Observer and the you. And that's what produces sharp Independent on Sunday. He would have greeted Davies' recall with a Well, however that may have smile on his face and a song in his

### Barbarians increase intensity

Rugby Union **CHRIS HEWETT** 

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There is so much kidology sur-rounding this weekend's show-piece between England and the New Zealand Barbarians that it will be no surprise if Billy Connolly turned out to be the referee. With both coaches getting their excuses in early, it would be easier to assess the thought processes of Kenneth Clarke than either Jack Rowell or John Hart.

Yesterday, Hart named a Barbarian side of truly outstanding quality - a tally of 328 New Zealand caps tells its own story - before attempting to explain why England are anything but the underdogs they paint them-selves to be. "This is not a Test," he repeated time and time again while sitting next to the All Black captain, Sean Fitzpatrick, who cannot play a game of shove-halfpenny without bursting every vein in his body. "I see this occasion as being

about using the ball, playing rug-by as it should be played and making it so exciting that those who watch will want to come back next week," said Hart, all smiles and witty asides. "We'd like to think that England will enter into the spirit." Given that Rowell, his counterpart, considers this particular match to be England's most difficult of the season, someone is operating under a serious misconception.

It was not all smiles yesterday, however. Once Hart touched on the subject of English rugby politics - the politics that denied his side a competitive work-out against the North at Huddersfield last weekend he became very serious indeed.

"Our rugby othos in New Zealand is not based on money but on the jerseys that we ear," he said. "The dispute that is going on in England at the moment saddens me because it is not about jerseys but about power. It is a cancer in the game.
"We were put in a very em-

barrassing position last Sunday and there was a selective moral-

ity about what went on that upset me. We've come a long way to be here and I feel we should have been treated with more respect. I'd be terribly sad if this sort of thing ever happened to a side visiting New Zealand."

Jonah Lomu's presence on the left wing on Saturday should keep John Sleightholme, his direct opponent, awake for the next couple of nights, but the New Zealander believes that the form horse will be inhabiting the opposite flank. Joeli Vidiri, a Fijian who qualifies for Test rugby as an All Black a year from now, is neither as tall nor as heavy as his colleague, but is reputed to be every bit as destructive.

Joeli has made a commitment

to New Zealand analy and we've made a commitment so him by bringing him of the steer," said Hart of the 22 year old Aucklander, who shone in the Super-12 provincial series last sm "He has a lot to learn, but he has a great deal of explosive power and I certainly see him as a prospective All Black I wouldn't be leaving Glen Ostorne, one of our very best players, on the bench if I didn't think that."

With four of the All Blacks' first-choice tight five on display. along with their preferred halfback pairing of Justin Marshall and Andrew Mehrtens, England must look eisewhere for salvation. It is hard to find, even in an unfamiliar back row where newcomers Andrew Blowers and Taine Randell partner the great Michael Jones.

After all the brinkmanship, it was left to Fitzpatrick to bring some pure, undiluted honesty to the build-up. "I felt pretty relaxed about things when I arrived here last week, but as the game gets closer, the intensity grows," he said. "It won't be too hard to get motivated for this one."

Contract BARDARDANS (v England, Twick-entham, Saturday): C Callet (Manascat); J Vidri (Counties), A leventa (Vidringaro), I. Spassassa (Auckland), J Lome (Counties); A Michardan (Can-terbay), J Marshall (Cancerbury); M Alled (Tasmets, S Physiotiet (Auckland, Carlo), O Brown (Auckland), I Jones (North Harbour), R Brooke (Auckland), M Jones (North Harbour), R Brooke (Auckland), M Jones (Marth Harbour), R Brooke (Auckland), M Jones (Marth Harbour), R Brooke (Auckland), M Jones (Marth Harbour), R Brooke



The light blues of Cambridge University struggle to contain a powerful Micky Steele-Bodger's XV, led by Rob Andrew, at Grange Road yesterday

### Andrew makes triumphant return to university

maculate display on his return to Grange Road yesterday to inspire Micky Steele-Bodger's invitation side to a thrilling eight tries to five 54-38 victory over Cambridge University.

Rob Andrew produced an immaculate display on his return to Grange Road yesterday to the next seven tries and the next seven tries are necessary to the next seven tries and the next seven tries are necessary tries and the next seven tries are necessary tries and the next ing his talented back ime at every opportunity.

sity and Tom Whitford, anoth-But a Cambridge side in the twice but for a time it was the the final minute. final stages of their preparations students who earned the plau-

the university were defiant to er Old Blue, touched down the end, scoring their last try in South Africa are eager to play

feat in the waterlogged 1995 World Cup semi-final in Dur-

mous psychological signifithe assistant coach, Nick Mallet, said after Tuesday over Cambridge University.

Andrew, who first made his right name as an undergraduate at Cambridge, missed his first conversion from in front of submerged by some superdative. Students who earned the plauson of the plauson of the varsity match gave them; dits as they piled on the pressure of the varsity match gave them; dits as they piled on the pressure of the varsity match gave them; dits as they piled on the pressure of the varsity match gave them; dits as they piled on the pressure of the varsity match gave them; dits as they piled on the pressure of the varsity match gave them; dits as they piled on the pressure of the varsity match gave them; dits as they piled on the pressure of the varsity match gave them; dits as they piled on the pressure of the varsity match gave them; dits as they piled on the pressure of the varsity match gave them; dits as they piled on the pressure of the varsity match gave them; dits as they piled on the pressure of the varsity match gave them; dits as they piled on the pressure of the varsity match gave them; dits as they piled on the pressure of the varsity match gave them; dits as they piled on the pressure of the varsity match gave them; dits as they piled on the pressure of the varsity match gave them; dits as they piled on the pressure of the varsity match gave them; dits as they piled on the pressure of the varsity match gave them; dits as they piled on the pressure of the varsity match gave them; dits as they piled on the pressure of the varsity match gave them; dits as they piled on the pressure of the varsity match gave them; dits as they piled on the pressure of the varsity match gave them; dits as they piled on the pressure of the varsity match gave them; dits as they piled on the pressure of the varsity match gave them; dits as they piled on the pressure of the varsity match gave them; dits as they piled on the pressure of the varsity match gave them; dits as the

tween the team that played today and that which will play in the Test. Tonight's demonstration is a message transmitted by one to the other."

South Africa badly needed to win on Tuesday after their first tour defeat, a 30-22 reverse regional XV had put South against the French Barbarians

### Moseley's dividend

Moseley have offered compensation to the four players they withdrew from the Midlands squad last week.

Moseley told Nathan Webber, Stuart McKinnon, Dan
Harris and Dean Ball not to play

25-17 defeat by Argentina last
Sunday and is joined by Andy for the divisional side on instructions from Epruc, the professional clubs' body. The decision denied the play-

ers the chance to play representative rugby, as well as costing them a £750 match fee, introduced for the first time this season by the Midlands.

pay an undisclosed sum to the players to help compensate them for lost earnings. The chairman, Peter Veitch, said: We felt that this was an appropriate gesture."

seven changes for tonight's game against Queensland at Newbury. Andy Maunder, the Exeter scrum-half, returns to lead the side after missing the Parton, Danny Barrett, Keith Brooking, Mark Vatcher and the back row pair Adrian Knox and Craig Davies.

The Welsh Rugby Union expects to reap gate receipts of £1m from the international against Australia. The WRU's Cardiff ticket office has been un-Moseley have now agreed to der siege since Jonathan Davies was recalled to the national side on Tuesday. Around 38,000 tickets have been sold and officials expect between 45,000 and 50,000 people in the National Stadium on Sunday.

Snooker -

John Parrott's ninth United Kingdom championship quarter-final still has a long way to run on the evidence of yesterday's opening session against a determined Alan McManns at Preston's Guild Hall.

The former title holder and his Scottish rival divided the first eight frames with neither player managing to get more than one frame ahead in a three-hour session. It was hardly gripping stuff but with so much at stake this was understandable.

Both players have failed to qualify for the last 16 of the German Ópen, to be staged in Os-

out of action for more than a month once their interest in the current championship con-

**Parrott's patchy performance** 

In addition there is the small matter of prize-money with an £8,000 difference between winning and losing.
Parrott, the world No 4, be-

gan as a slight favourite and he laboured for 39 minutes to take the first frame by potting blue and pink. The second was not much shorter in duration with McManus levelling after sinking the blue to bring to an end to Parrott's search for snookers.

Parrott's break of 64 and one of 42 from the world No 6 man Open, to be staged in Os-nabruck next month, and will be sent the players to a mid-session interval deadlocked at 2-2

Parrott should have won the fifth frame but lost it on the black after McManus needed

and obtained a snooker. McManus should then have built on his 3-2 cushion, but missed a red when going 61-1 clear and Parrott stepped in with 71 to make it 3-3.

The seventh was another scrappy encounter decided by Parrott's run of 38 with Mc-Manus finally finding some fluency with 90 the highest by either player in the session to make it 4-4 with all to play for in this afternoon's final session of nine frames.

UM, CRAMATPONISHEP Quanting-final fina-up; A Mc Manus (Scori level with J Parrott (Engl) 4-4 resume soday; N Doherty (M) v A Robidous (Carl); S Hendry (Scoli v P Hunter (Engl; J Higgins (Scoli v M Wittern (Web).

### **England's decline and fall**

#### **Basketball**

RICHARD TAYLOR Estonia England

England's woeful slide down the European rankings continued last night in Talinn where they lost to Estonia for their sixth defeat out of seven games in their European championship qualifying group.

Qualification for next year's finals has been beyond England since last season's opening round of fixtures and with two of their last three games against Germany and Russia, their only hope now is to avoid the wooden spoon with a second victory

over the Portuguse in January. England, denied any worthwhile programme or funding to pay their players even a meagre expenses allowance, were further undone in Estonia by the absence of two key players.

Karl Brown, the London Towers playmaker, was left behind to rest an ankle injury while the 6ft 10in Spencer Dunkley remained in France to begin litigation against French club Limoges who bave cut him from their line up

Against the Estonians England doggedly stayed in touch for the first eight minutes and were level at 15-15. But the superior shooting, strength and rebounding, not to mention preparation of their opponents

soon bore fruit. Aivar Kuusmaa included a clutch of threepointers in his 24 points, ably supported by 18 from Rauno Pehka and 17 from the splendidly named Tit Sokk.

The bulk of England's points came from their inside players. John Amaechi, who plays for Greek club Panathinaikos, scored 20 points with 14 from Sheffield's Roger Huggins and 13 from London's Neville Austin.

England trailed 53-44 at halftime and steadily fell further behind after the break as the Estonians capitalised on the lack of England's outside scoring threat. Steve Bucknall was held to single figures and the four guards managed a total of only 15 points between them.

#### imola track chief pleads his innocence

Federico Bendinelli, the Imola track chief who could face tri-al with Frank Williams and four others over the death of Ayrton Senna, said yesterday he. had expected to be indicted over the 1994 tragedy.

Bendinelli, managing direc-

tor of the SAGIS group which runs the track, was responding to reports that an Italian prosecutor had obtained leave to in-dict him and five other people on charges of manslaughter. I am not worried because I

know I am innocent," Gazzetta dello-Sport newspaper quoted Bendinelli as saying in London, where he attended a Formula One meeting "Everything was in order on the unfortunate day that Senna died. It was a tragedy for Formula One but Imola just doesn't enter into it." The Italian news agency ANSA reported that the Bologna prosecutor, Maurizio Passarini, was poised to charge Villiams, team technical man-

r, Patrick Head, and Belgian director, Roland Bruindo, with manslaughter. an expert report for Bologna 221013 concluded the car's column had been mod-Williams (eam said Fairs a commit was inproment of impact.

### **Palmer and Smith missing**

Great Britain will be without their two Olympic medallists, Paul Palmer and Graeme Smith, at next month's inaugural European Short-Course Championships in Rostock, Germany.

Palmer, the silver medallist in the 400m freestyle in Atlanta, and Smith, the 1500m freestyle bronze medallist, are both con-ships, in Brazil.

FOOTBALL RESULTS

Fig. CLIP First-round replayer. Bernet 1. (Dewne 72) Famborough Or Beghan & Howe Ablort 1. (Messel 43) Sudducy Your 1. (Brown 23) (adapted the first Sudducy Your 1. (Brown 23) (adapted the first Sudducy Your 1. (Brown 23) (adapted the first Sudducy Your 1. (Brown 23) (adapted first Sudducy Your 1. (Brown 23) (adapted first Sudducy I. (Brown 24) (First Sudducy I. (Brown 25) (Brown 25

44) Aston Villa C.

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Gas VALDHALL CONFERENCE; Berth 2 (Dwing
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(Butler 70) Gasterbeed 1 (Whiteon 75); Shejhandja
2 (Astrold 54, Charles 90) Morecomba 1
(Castole 75).
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BBL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE Tains Division: Mon-press 1 (Dates pen 65) East String 0. Linea ( ( India) per hol Last Storing O. Unescored LeAGUE Premier Divisions Choday 2 Marino 1; Friedre O Hyde 3; Izmaniter 1; Wins-tort 1. Frast Polisions Great Harwood O Hebra-field Q; Wennighon 2 Alberton IR 3. UniFilia Flast Divisions Cup first rounds Stactobridge 2 Met-tox 1. President's Cup fiest count Surrior Stridge 2 Rundom 3; Berman 5 Acctingom Sant, lay 4; Quagley 1 Fersley Odito 1; Spensymoor 2 Byth Spartars 2; Worksop 3 Lincoln Util O. DR MARTENS LEAGUE Premier Divisions: Gloubster City 2 November 27, November Di-visions: Careful 2 November 2, Waymouth 5 Peer(D. Michand Division: Grandman, 1. Duday

#### centrating on preparing for next year's World Cup circuit, which starts in Hong Kong in Jamuary. The 12-strong squad is head-

ed by Mark Foster, the world 50m butterfly short-course record holder, and Neil Willey, who 12 months ago won silver in the 100m backstroke at the last Short-Course Champiou-

ICIS LEAGUE Premier Division: Bromby 5 Chen-sey 1. First Division: Addershot 0 Mariow 1: Hempton 1 Berivarnised 1. Beardist Insur-anno Cap second month: Beardist Insur-stone 0: Leighton 1 Herdon 0. Second-round replay: Yeord 0 Yearding 1. Third round: Gays 1 Chestann 2. Wassyone EAD MERG 1.EAGUE: Heme Bay 3 Deal 1: Stode Green 1 Sheppty 1: Turbridge Wells 1 Follostone 5. FA CAMSERING WASS Second round: Nant-

Deal 1: Stode Bozen 1 Streppty 1: Turnbridge Wells 1 Fibilisatione 5. FA CARLISSERER WASK Second round: Kartwich 2 St Anchers 1; Wick 2 Thrutcham 4. Second-round replayer: South Shields 3 Blockpool Rivers 1; Safrion Walden 3 Swellham 0; Arlesby 3 Avelby 2. FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE Flost Division: Stockton 3 Shields 3. NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE Premier Division: Ossett Town 1 Belper 0. NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE First Division: Burncugh 2 Newcastle Town 3. Flood-lift Trophy second round: Estimate Theology 0 Bootle 2; Sailord 0 Gloscop North End 5. JEMSON CASTERN LEAGUE: Premier Division: Disa 3 Cocton 0: Newment 8 March 0. League Caps Second membe Gorleston 3 Felosione 1: Great Parmouth 3 Ipolich Wenderens 3 (sec); Havenni 3 Headelgh 1.

UNITED SUSSEE COUNTY LEAGUE: First Division: Dance March 10: Archan 14CA 0 Rangmer 2; Languey 3 Southwick 0.

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Bettern Wessex Leadur: Bemerton Heath
Bournemouth FC 1; Gosport O Andover 1.

PORTING LEAGUE Presider Divisions Backburn
3 Shaffield Wastrosdey 1; Stoles O Berton 2.

Rest Divisions Coverny O Notts Courry 2. Second Divisions Rotherham O Carisle 0.

#### Faldo ready for \$1m challenge

Nick Faldo, the US Masters champion, will be among 12 of the world's best golfers teeing off today in the crater of an extinct South African volcano, chasing a £666,000 first prize.

Challenge on the Gary Player
Country Chab course in Sun City
has all four major winners of
1996 competing, Faldo 15-7-7-7
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has all four major winners of the Course in 1996 competing, Faldo, the US Open champion, Steve Jones, Tom Lehman, the Open champion, and the American PGA champion, Mark Brooks. Colin Montgomerie, who headed this year's European Order of Merit, and Ian Woosnam will

also be competing. South Africa's Ernie Els is the favourite for the title, but even the last-placed golfer will pick up more than £66,000.

The course borders a game park and stretches to 7,700 vards off the back markers. "It certainly is pretty demanding out there," said Lehman, the American who has earned \$1.7m in prize-money this year, more than any other player in world golf. Victories in the Open, the

Tour Championship and the Grand Slam of Golf have seen Lehman move up to No 2 in the world and another win at Sun City would put him tantalisingly close to the No 1 position held by Greg Norman.

### Basketball Bernie Bickerstaff has stepped down as head coach of the Denver Nuggets and handed over the reins to long-turne NBA coach Dick Motta. Bickerstaff, who is in his seventh year with the Nuggets' organisation, will remain team president and also assume the title of general manager.

SPORTING DIGEST

minager.
NBA: Secramento 98 Toronto 87; Attenta 101
Vancouver 80; Charlotte 97 Seattle 89; La
Lakers 100 Philodelphile 88; Houston 102 Portland 101 (ot); Dalles 105 San Antonio 101;
Denver 117 Phoenis 108; Miemi 107 Golden State 88.

EASTERN CONFERENCE ATLANTIC DRVISION

CENTRAL DIVISION .929 .833 .750 .583 .571 .538 .273 .250 3 .800 -5 .687 2 6 .571 3½ 7 .462 5 9 .357 6½ 10 .231 8 13 .000 11

Cricket

The Pakistan fast bowler Waqar Younis faces a fitness test today before the second Test against New Zealand in Rawaipindi. Pakistan, who lost the first test by 44 runs, are also likely to play seamer Mohammed Zehid on a pitch expected to favour the pace bowlers. New Zealand have named an unchanged side for the match New Zeatand have named at un-changed side for the match.

Alan Wells has said that he may stay at Hove despite being granted his wish to be released from his contract after being replaced as capitain by Peter Moores, Although Wells admits to be-not recorded by a "New attraction" of

England Under-19s produced a fine team performance to defeat their Islamabad counterparts by 30 runs and maintain a winning start to their tour of Pakistan. Northamptonshire's David Sales, who earlier this year scored an unbesten 210 on his county debut, top-scored for Eng-land with 63 that included nine fours and a six.

TOUR MATCH (letumabad, Pair; one day): England Under-19's 194 (38.2 overs; D Sales 63; Islamabad Inder-19's 164 for 9 (40 overs). England won by 30 runs.

Football

fer from Kent and is expecting another from Gloucestershire, the 35-year-old former England betsman said: "I could be persuaded to stay if there is a long-term plan that might involve me in the future."

Sudbury Town's FA Cup second round tie against Brendord on 7 December will be played at Colchester United on po-lice advice. Blackburn's striker Graham Fenton looks set for another spell on the side-lines after suffering a recurrence of a hamstring problem in Tuesday's 3-1 reserve team win over Sheffield Wednes-day and will now mass Saturday's home

day and will now mass Saturday's home game with Southampton. The former England goalkeeper Peter Shilton is moving from West Ham to Leyton Orient. The 47-year-old, who won a record 125 England caps, will make Orient his 12th club when Les Sealey returns to Upton Park. Shilton, whose last League game was for Bolton in May lest year, is only four short of 1,000 League appearances in his career. Germany's coach, Berti Vogts, has brought three key Euro 96 players back into his squad after injury for next month's World Cup qualifier against Portugal. Matthias Sammer, Thomas Heimer and Christian Ziege, who all missed the 1-1 draw at home to Northern treland earlier this month, were named in a provisional 29-man squad.

Northern Ireland earlier this month, were named in a provisional 28-man squad. eERMANY SQUAD (Month Cap Group Niev Pentagel, Liston, 34 Dect. Goelkeepers: Kahe (Bayoni Munch), Köpke (Maryellet, Rock; Merder Bremen), Daffandars: Babbal, Halmer (tent Bayoni, Kohler, Rauthr, Sammer jell Bonssta Dormund), Passtack (Bonsos Möncherngleithen), Wörns (Bayor Levehusen), Midfelders: Besler, Ziage, Strusz jell Bayen), Bode, Elts from Werder Bremen, Fink, Tarnat (tooth Kerlsune), Hagper (VB Stuttgert), Hottinder (Borthurd), Wosz, Bochunn, Forwards: Bierhedf (Lonses), Bolle (VB Stuttgert), Hernfich (Dortmund), Winsten (Levehusen), Küllessen), Zidlessen), Zidlessen, Stille (Voth Bayer), Auto (Mindel (Mindel (Voth Bayer), Auto (Mindel (Minde

#### ice hockey MHL: Boston 2 Philadelphia to 3; Toronto 3 Vancouser 2; i 1; Edmorton 10 Calgary 1. EASTERN CONFERENCE

PACIFIC DIVISION

**Powerboating** WORLD CLASS II CHAMPIONS IP (Gut of Onsen) leading standings after two rounds: 1.5 At Tayer (Dub) 6000rd, 2.8 Ruspr (Fin 4.71, 2.6 Hano (Dub) 400rd, 2.8 Ruspr (Fin 4.71, 2.5 Hano (Dub) 400rd, 4 Sneich Al Facien (Num) 338; 50 L Togy in 225, 31 Dara (IV 225; 7 C Burnett (GB) 222.

Rugby Union CLIR MATCHES: Combridge Linv 38 Steele-Bodgers XV 54. Postponed: Rugby v HM Pre-ors (to be played Tuesday 26 Nov., 6.0pm).

TODAY'S FIXTURES Football PONTRIS LEAGUE Premier Division: Notungham Forest v Botton (7.0), Second Division: Manchester City v York (7.0) (at **Division: M**an Witton Albion).

A/ON INSURANCE COMERNATION First Division: Arsenal v West Ham (2.0). Rugby Union

COUNTIES OF ORIGIN SERIES: Western Counties v Queensland (7.30) (at Newbury). Other sports

#### Swimming

GREAT BRITAIN TEAM (European Short-Course Chempionships, Restock, Gentlem, 13-15 Decembert: Men: A Clayten (City of Leeds). M Foster (Lincoln Pernaqual, S Handley (City of Bristol), N Willey (Bomet Copthall), I Wilson (City of Leeds), RMaden (Rochdale Aquabean) Women: S Collings (City of Bradion!), J Deather (City of Coventry). H Don-Domcan (Action Central), J King (Waltham Forest), S Rolph (City of Newcastle), H Sletter (City of Coventry).

#### TODAY'S NUMBER \$165m

The amount (£100m) that the Texas businessman John Spano has paid for a 90 per cent stake in the New York Islanders ice hockey team. Spano, a native of the Big Apple, heads an aircraft and heavy equipment company in

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Peterborough PEI 5TA Also available at became a myth, page 26

### Ericsson move anticipated by Blackburn

Football

ALAN NIXON AND NICK DUXBURY

Sven Goran Ericsson yesterday took to the airwaves to deny that he was about to become the new manager of Blackburn Rovers. who nevertheless fully expect him to be striding through the door at Ewood Park within the

"Nobody from Blackburn has been here to talk to me or the club." the Sampdoria coach said on Radio 5 Live. "I am not going anywhere. I am happy here so far. We are doing well in the league and there is no reason why I should leave before half the league is gone."

However, Ericsson is understood to have told Sampdoria that he wants to be released early from of his contract in order to join the Premiership club on a salary of £500,000 a year.

Blackburn, who have the means to pay considerable former England team-mate quit

compensation, have stayed quiet while Ericsson has been discussing his future with the Genoa club.

Robert Coar, the Rovers chairman, said: "We will not be drawn into talking about speculation and rumour. Our stance on the issue is unchanged and the managerial situation remains ongoing.

The caretaker manager Tony Parkes remained philosophical. "We keep hearing and reading about all sorts of people but it's water off a duck's back now," he said. "All we can do is carry on preparing the players for the next game and that is exactly what we intend to do."

Phil Neal will know his Manchester City future today after issuing what amounted to be a ultimatum, claiming that his long-term prospects at the First Division club had been shrouded in doubt.

Neal took over from Steve Coppell as manager after his

#### **Scotland to face** Estonia in Monaco

Scotland were told yesterday that they must to travel to Monaco on Tuesday 11 February to replay their abandoned World Cup qualifier against Estonia, writes Rupert Metcalf.

The original fixture, in Tallinn on 9 October, was called off after just three seconds. The Estonian team failed to turn up when Fifa, world football's governing body, demanded a daylight kick-off following Scottish protests about the floodlights.

After Fifa had ordered a rematch, Estonia offered Cyprus and Azerbaijan as alternative venues, but Scotland rejected both suggestions, forcing Fifa's World Cup committee to make yesterday's decision.

Amar Leppanen, the secretary of Estonia's Football Association, said: "We like Cyprus more because it is not so expensive for us and more suitable, but Fifa's decision is final, so there is nothing we can do. There are problems for us, but we can in Belfast for a later date.

that the reason Matt Bryant was

missing from their Coca-Cola

Cup side for the defeat at Ip-

swich on Tuesday was that the

player had been shot in the leg.

manager, initially said Bryant

had missed the game because of

a stomach upset, but the 26-

year-old had actually been in-

volved in a shooting accident.

1 Leave City in grip of depres-

solemn figure (6)
9 Excellent fellows, brainy and

12 Court proceedings (4,3,3,5)

13 Analyse party members on Right (8) 14 Caught birds with booded headpieces (5)

clay (8) 20 The music of "Cats"? (11, 4)

23 Mellow note within chimed (6)

more than pretty (5)

10 Expert repaired radio on time 6

sion (6) 4 Confer with master, short

Tony Pulis, the Gillingham

solve them, while for the SFA it is easier because Fifa will be paying their costs." David Findlay, of the Scottish Football Association, said: "I am happy for the fans. It's well within the travelling time that we had envisaged."

Northern Ireland should hear today if their World Cup qualifier at home to Albania on 14 December is to be postponed. Yesterday Fifa suspended the Albanians from the tournament "until further notice".

Fifa acted after Albania's ministry of education and sport suspended the general secretary of the national football federation, Eduard Dervishi, and dissolved its executive committee.

Keith Cooper, a Fifa spokesman, said the suspension has been enforced to protect the national federation in the face of political interference". If the conflict with the Albanian goverment is not resolved promptly. Fifa will rearrange the game

Player hurt in shotgun accident

near his Bristol home, but we

wanted to keep the news under

wraps until after the Ipswich

tie, Pulis said. "He is a lover

of field sports and was out with

family and friends when a gun

accidentally went off and pep-

pered a leg with shot. He was

rushed to Bristol Infirmary with

more than 40 pellets embedded

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

1 Set out board with meat dish

Carbon gels in levels! (7)

Measure (half, about) in local

Hawk's grabbed river fish (5) Shrews in first of wild prickles

How like a bawk (12)

8 Report name in case (4)

16 Style of robe on the Queen is 16 Sword sliced and shortened

18 Like a mixer treating soil with 17 Income, including mean duds

23 Mellow note within chimed (6)
24 Joined HM cracking a bottle
(8)
25 Sober? With Kentish fruit? (6)
26 Youch for a yet, yocally (6)
26 Youch for a yet, yocally (6)

rope (7)

11 Get one's lines crossed? (12) 15 Clumsily, two baulk a VIP's informal stroll (9)

19 Mostly metallic rococo, un-

month due to stress-related problems, with the City chairman, Francis Lee, insisting that Neal would be in control for the forseeable future.

Rumours that City have been lining up the former Leeds manager Howard Wilkinson have made Neal feel that his position has been undermined

"I am not unhappy. It's just something I have commented on," he said. "I am doing my best for Manchester City and the club's fans. I am working hard to put a smile on everyone's face and I want to walk away after the game having

Lee, who has described talk of Wilkinson arriving at the helm as "pure speculation", said: "If there is anything to talk about we'll talk about it to-

Neal has still not signed a contract, despite being offered a deal to cover his agreement with Cardiff that still had more than two years to run.

Lee will be anxious not to be left in the lurch again following embarrassing snubs by George Graham and Dave Bassett following Alan Ball's early-season resignation and the departure of Coppell.

He is trying to put together a lucrative investment packag-to the tune of £12m and told the fans on Monday night that he is close to sealing the deal. The Aston Villa central de-

fender Gareth Southgate could be out until the New Year with the ankle injury he suffered in Tuesday's Coca-Cola Cup defeat at Wimbledon. The England player will be

out of action for "a minimum of four weeks" after another knock to the ankle he initially damaged while on World Cup duty against Poland at Wembley early last month.

Stuart Slater has decided to sign for Watford, of the Second Division, on a free transfer after rejecting a contract with Lei-

The former £1.5m Celtic and West Ham midfielder was offered a short-term deal to stay until the end of the season, but Watford's two-and-a-half year contract proved more tempting.

"He underwent surgery and

we gather he has now been al-

lowed home, but I have no idea

when he'll play again. The main

list alongside his defensive part-

ner Gleu Thomas, who recent-

ly needed surgery to save an eye after he stumbled into a tree

during a training session and was hit in the face by a branch.

Bryant is added to the injury

thing is that he is alive."

#### training session in Zimbabwe yesterday. The first game of the tour takes place on Saturday Ray of hope for Hick

Graeme Hick was vesterday backed to make the former England chairman of selectors Ray Illingworth eat his words by returning to the international fold next summer and showing

Hick has been left out of the winter party for the tours of Zimbabwe and New Zealand after a disappointing time last summer against India and Pak-istan and then with Worcester-

It prompted Illingworth to launch a stinging attack on Hick, who has scored 90 firstclass centuries, saying that he is "not as great a player as his record suggests" and claimed that "throughout his life things watch him day in and day out have been easy for Graeme know just how good he is.

Worcestershire, believes the player will benefit from a winter away from cricket, his first lengthy break for six years, and

return hungry for success at county and international level. Fearnley said: "I hope that Graeme reads Ray's comments and that they serve to fire him up a bit, but in any case I think he will looking to play for

England again.
"He has come to terms with the fact that he won't be touring this winter and now he has done that, the break will be like a breath of fresh air for him.

"I don't make rash judgements but I am quite confident that he will play for England again and those of us who

last summer, but just a few short months before that he had a good tour of South Africa and came back for last summer as one of England's established

replace Illingworth. He said: "I was at a function

### Malaysia backs Stewart

**Motor racing** 

Jackie Stewart's new Formula One team yesterday announced a multi-million pound sponsorship deal with the Malaysian Government. While Stewart declined to discuss the precise relationship, but at the modetails of the package, it is understood to be in the region of ter into this one year at a time," £10m for the one-year deal, a said Stewart, whose new team massive slice of the projected £20m annual budget.

Stewart-Ford have already announced a £25m five-year link-up with the banking group HSBC, while the Ford engine contract is estimated at being worth around £20m a year.

The deal is the first time a national government has been in- have two partners on board and circuit beginning in January.

volved in a major sponsorship package in motor racing, and there will probably be further Stewart said he hoped the backing would continue beyond the initial 12-month period.

"The Prime Minister of Malaysia has told me that he would like this to be a long-term ment they have decided to enwill make their debut at the Australian Grand Prix in Mel-

bourne in March "As a Scotsman you wouldn't expect me to talk about money and we've agreed with the Malaysian Government that we will keep this deal between ourselves at this time. We now

announcements before the car is unveiled on 10 December. "If we're going to be com-

petitive in general terms - and we can't expect to be able to compete with the likes of Williams and Ferrari at this stage - we need to have the budget and we feel that we have that and will be able to progress."

be carried on both the front and rear of the cars to be driven by Jan Magnussen and Reubens Barrichello and the sponsorship package is proof of the Asian nation's wish to become involved in F1. Malaysia hopes to stage its own grand prix in 1999, with construction of a new

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Chris Silverwood, the Yorkshire fast bowler, practises under the watchful eye of David Llloyd, the England coach, during the touring team's first training session in Zimbabwe yesterday. The first game of the tour takes place on Saturday

Photograph: Clive Masor/Alsoo

#### and he has never had to graft." However, Duncan Feamley, the chairman of Hick's county,

his true worth against Australia. shire, before a late end-of-season flourish.

"His record over the last two or three years has been as good as anybody's until last summer and everybody has a bad spell from time to time. The important thing is to bounce back and

Fearnley said his views were supported by one of the current England selectors, Graham Gooch, one of the favourites to

with Graham earlier this week and he believes that, with this winter's break, Hicky will return for England at some stage. He feels the lad is a good player and

#### severe crippling joint damage to hands and wrists. Feet, knees, hips, shoulders, elbows, jaw and neck can also be affected The Arthritis and Rheumatism Council is the unly major UK

charity financing medical research into osteoordistits and rheumatic diseases at most university hospitals and incide al Unlike the lottery, successful research programmes aren't dependent on chance. We need your help to increase our relde-

The logo "Visit Malaysia" will

To: The Arthritis & Rheimmann Council, FREEPONT, Chesteriteki, Perbyshire 841 79% ARTHRITIS RESEARCH A Secretar of Change Parton, 19-11 The Proches of Ken

When you buy a lottery ticket, you've a one in 14 million chasce of winning the jackpot.

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